森田まさのり

読者の皆さんはとうにお気づきでしょうが、ニコガクの連中の名前は全て阪神タイガースの選手名をつけています。そして対戦相手は江夏以外、ほぼ全員ジャイアンツ選手の名前で統一してます。でもキャラクター性など、実際の選手とは何の共通点もありません。ただ名前の語感だけでつけたものがほとんどです。川藤はひょっとしたら、実在の川藤幸三氏と似ている点があるかもしれません。一番しっくりいく名前だと思ってます。僕の大好きなミスタータイガース・田淵の名前は出てきません。何度かつけようと思ったことはありますが、どうしてもつけられませんでした。下の名前「幸一」を川藤にくっつけるのが精一杯でした。使いたいんだけど使いたくない。思い入れが強すぎて……。僕にとって田淵という名前は特別すぎる名前なのです。

●週刊少年ジャンプ・H14年44号、46号、48号、H15年2号～5号掲載分収録

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ジャンプ・コミックス

延長10回裏ニコガクの攻撃。サヨナラのランナーを2塁に置き、打者は安仁屋。不屈の笹崎魂を取り戻し、延長とは思えない投球をみせる川上との勝負の行方は…!?そして、甲子園を目指す両校の熱き戦いに、決着の時が!!

ROOKIES

ジャンプコミックス ★各巻とも好評発売中!!

ONE PIECE	1～27	尾田栄一郎
テニスの王子様	1～17	許斐剛
遊☆戯☆王	1～32	高橋和希
NARUTO―ナルト―	1～16	岸本斉史
HUNTER×HUNTER	1～16	冨樫義博
幽☆遊☆白書	1～19	冨樫義博
こちら葛飾区亀有公園前派出所	1～13	秋本治
ヒカルの碁	1～20	ほったゆみ・小畑健
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アイシールド21	1～2	稲垣理一郎・村田雄介
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Mr.FULLSWING	1～7	鈴木信也
BLACK CAT	1～12	矢吹健太朗
ピューと吹く!ジャガー	1～4	うすた京介
ボボボーボ・ボーボボ	1～8	澤井啓夫
いちご100%	1～3	河下水希
プリティフェイス	1～3	叶恭弘
TOKYO ANTS叶恭弘短編集II		叶恭弘
SWORD BREAKER	1～2	梅澤春人
A・O・N	1	道元宗紀
DRAGON BALL	1～42	鳥山明
SLAM DUNK	1～31	井上雄彦
BASTARD!!	1～22	萩原一至
るろうに剣心―明治剣客浪漫譚―	1～28	和月伸宏
ホイッスル!	1～24	樋口大輔
サクラテツ対話篇	上・下巻	藤崎竜
Ultra Red	1	鈴木央
Mr.Clice(ミスタークリス)Part I～4		秋本治
冒険王ビィト	1～2	中鉢明夫・稲田浩司
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I'll～アイル～	1～12	浅田弘幸
ダブル・ハード!	1～27	今野直樹
わたるがぴゅん!	1～54	なかいま強
風飛び一斗	1～12	門馬もとき
CLAYMORE	1～3	八木教広
あやかし天馬	1～2	柴田亜美
ファイアーエムブレム蒼炎の剣	1～3	井沢ひろし・山田孝太郎
なんだかコワレ丸	1～3	矢也晶久
GODAGUN	1～15	片倉・M・政憲
魔砲使い黒姫	1	片倉・M・政憲
ガンリュウ	1～7	山根和俊
学園ラブコメ劇場 ギャグマンガ日和	1～3	増田こうすけ
綺流斗～キルト～	1～2	池田晃久
LEO the GOLD	上・下巻	石波昌英
DIABOLUS-ディアボロス-	1～2	真弓和丸
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JUMP COMICS

ROOKIES

ルーキーズ

ギリギリの男

森田まさのり

22

森田まさのり

ROOKIES

ルーキーズ

22

集英社

ROOKIES

ルーキーズ

22

森田まさのり

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ジャンプ・コミックス

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★この作品はフィクションです。実在の人物・
団体・事件などには、いっさい関係ありません。

森田まさのり

STUDIO Kit man SINCE・1989

22 ギリギリの馬(うま)

JUMP COMICS

ROOKIES ルーキーズ

Previously on Rookies

Hot blooded teacher Kawato revived the once fallen baseball team. He managed to bring the stray 1st year club members back to the right path. The reborn Nikogaku had a rocky start, but through utter defeat they discovered and started yearning for a dream called the "Koshien". In the 4th round of the summer prelims, Nikogaku was up against the champions: Sasazaki Highschool. With their reckless style and Aniya's plays, they managed to play against Sasazaki evenly, but due to injuries the game had a sad development... Halfway through the game Kawato became furious at Sasazaki's coach Chiba disregard for his players' feelings. He then did the unthinkable and went to the opposing team's bench in protest.
The effect being coach Chiba and the Sasazaki nine rediscovering the true Sasazaki spirit.
In the bottom of the 9th, Hiratsuka enters with a 1 point difference and a chance for a walk off homerun, but it ends with a draw and continues into extra innings. Now in the bottom of the 10th, the stage is set once again for a walk off with Aniya next up the plate. Will he make it...!?

Character Introduction

ROOKIES ルーキーズ

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ギリギリの馬（うま）

STUDIO Kitman SINCE・1989

Vol.206 18.44M

IT'S ON...!

S B O
H E E

CHATTER

FINALLY...

OOOH, A BATTLE...

.....

OHHH...

OHHHH...

.....

笹山奇

REVIVING THE GLORY DAYS

FOR SUCH A SHALLOW REASON.

IT SEEMS...

I WAS SWALLOWED BY MY SENSE OF DUTY.

WHAT BASEBALL IS ALL ABOUT.

BUT I REMEMBER NOW

WHAT SASAZAKI'S SOUL IS.

喫煙ご遠慮

S

COACH...

!

COME ON, LET'S GO, KAWA-KAMI!!

AIM FOR A STRIKE-OOOOUT!

!

YOU'RE THE ONE ATTACKING. ATTAAAACK!!

DON'T LET THE BATTER HIT IT!

KAWA-KIIIMI!

KAWA-KIIIMI!

ATTACK, KAWA-KIIIMI!

THAT'S RIGHT, GO FOR IIIIT!

KAWA-KIIIMI!

KAWA-KIIIMI!

1

KAWA-KIIIMI!

ANI-
YAAAA!

GO FOR
THE HOME-
RUUUUN!

A WALK
OFF HOME-
RUUUUN!

SHUUUT
UUUUP!
FUUUCK!

ANIYAAAA!

GOOD
LUCK,
ANIYAAAA!

KAWA-
KAMI!

KAWA-
KAMI!

KAWA-
KAMI!

KAWA-
KAMI!

KAWA-
KAMI!

ANI-
YAAAA!

KAWA-
KAMI!

笹崎

THEY'RE COM-PLETELY IGNORING ME.

UWAAAH... THIS IS AMAZING.

I CAN EASILY TAKE A BASE...

...THIS MEANS...

HMM... HANG ON.

EH...!?

AH, YOU IDIOT.

SAAAFE!

OWW!

18

オオオ

ロロロ

THAT WAS...

CLOSE ...

HAA

HAA

HAA

HAA

UGH... THAT MORON ...

HE WANTS TO CONCENTRATE ON THE BATTER, SO HE THREW THE CHECK TO PUT SOME FEAR INTO THE AMATEUR HAMANAKA.

WOW, THAT CHECK WAS AMAZIN'.

I SEE, SO HE CAN RELAX NOW.

LOOK, NOW HAMANAKA WILL THINK TWICE BEFORE LEAVING THE BASE.

DO YOU NOT SEE THAT KAWAKAMI IS USING EVERYTHING HE HAS TO WIN?

HE SAW A CHANCE TO TAKE THE RUNNER OUT SO HE THREW.

DON'T BE STUPID.

!?

THERE'S NO WAY HE'LL RELAX.

THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO WIN.

DESPERATE CRAZY LIKE I SAID.

GOOD JOB, KAWA-KAMI!!!!

GYAHAHA! HEY, LOOK, THE RUNNER IS GLUED TO THE BASE!

AMAZIN', DID YOU SEE THAT CHECK!?

.....

THE RUNNER WON'T MOVE ANY-MORE!

START YOUR WINDUP, KAWAKAMI!!!

I... I DO, BUT...

DO YOU GET THAT!?

HAMANA-KAAAAA! YOU'RE THE WALK OFF RUN-NERRRR!

ガ

〃

遊崎

HE'S WINDING UP!

ガガガ

FE

AND I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING BUT ME KNOCKING IT OUT THE PARK!

I HIT HIS FORK... I COMPLETELY HIT IT...

NO MATTER WHAT YOU PITCH, I WILL FUCKIN' HIT IT.

THE MOUND LOOKS DISTANT...

AND YOU LOOK TINY, KAWAKAMI...

山

SO FAST!

INSIDE PITCH!

WHOA.

FOOOUL!

HAH

HAH

1A

.....

MUU... HE JAMMED HIM WITH AN INSIDE PITCH...

BUT HE COULD SEE THE BALL.

ヒ"
ヒ"
ヒ"
ヒ"
ヒ"

KEI-CHAN...?

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

THE HANDLE... I HIT IT CLOSE TO THE HANDLE, SO MY HANDS WENT NUMB...

SHIT...

NO...

IT'S NOTHING ...

...SO CLOSE...

STRIIIIIIKE!

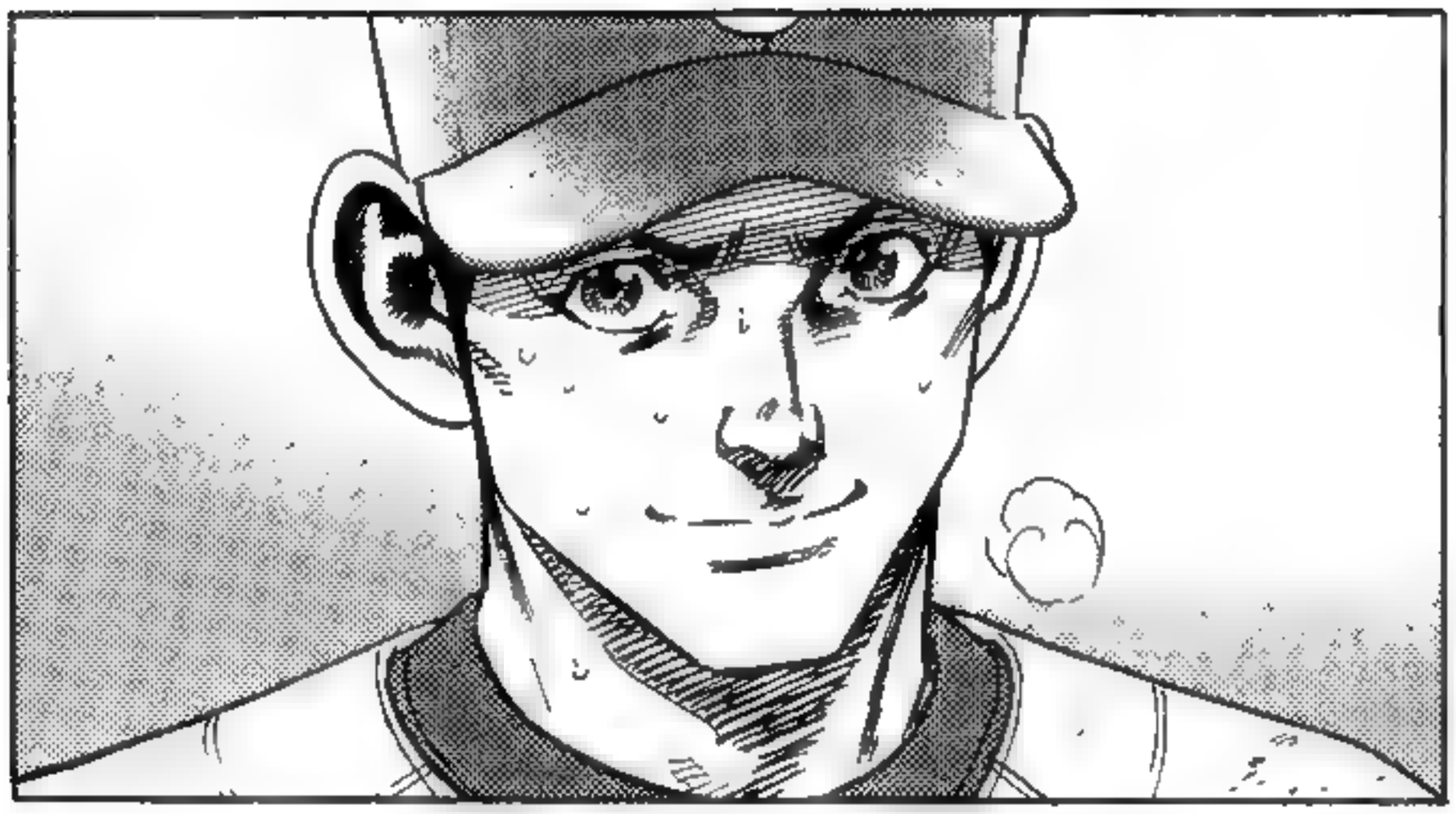
ANIYA...

AHH ...

.....

WE'RE GONNA BATTLE IT OUT WITH FASTBALLS.

SO THAT'S HOW IT IS.

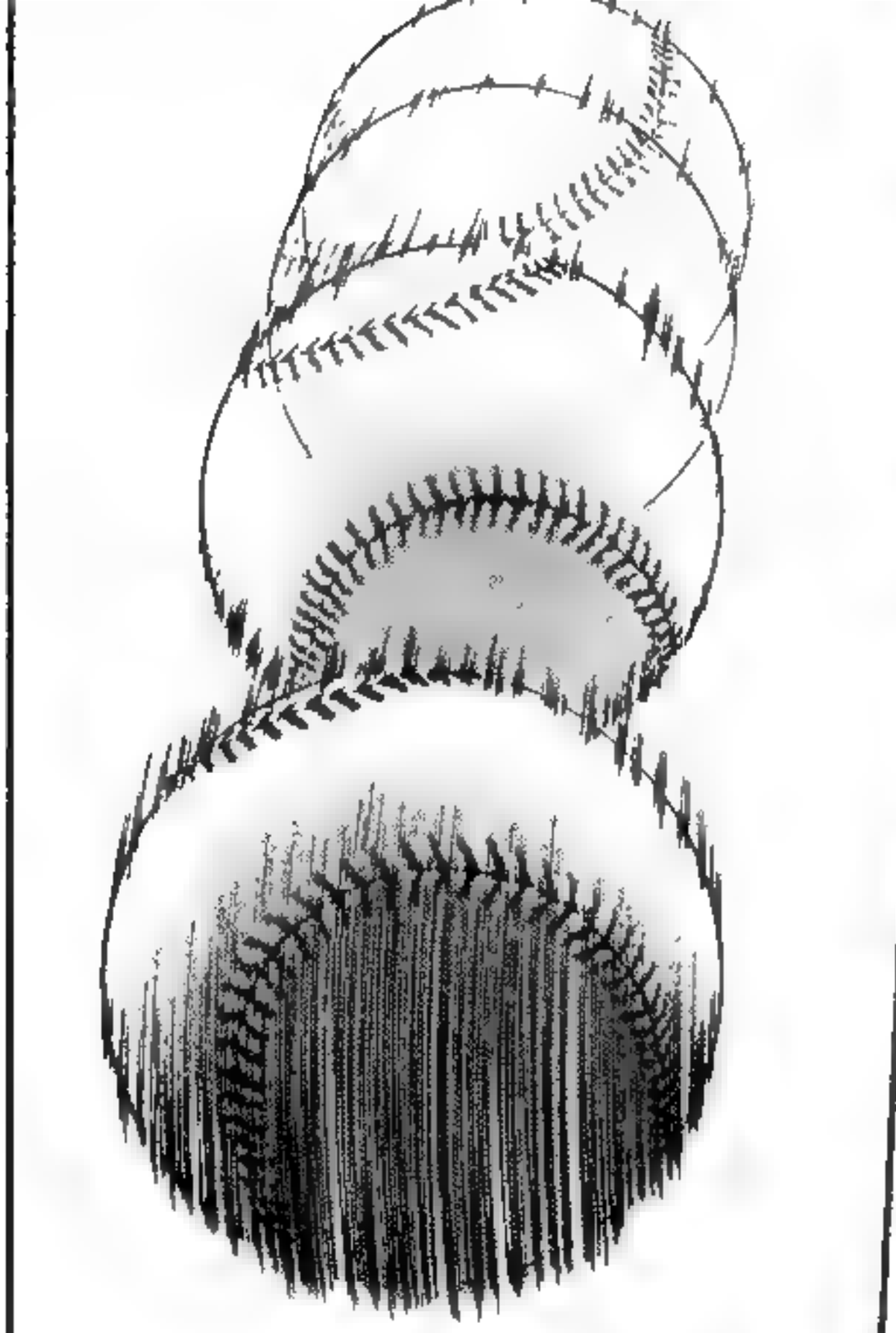


Vol.207 Evolution

KAWA-KAMI!!!!

LET'S GO, KAWAKA-MI!!!

IT'S GOING TO BE A FAST-BALL...!



A FORK!?

KUAAH!
GU...

IT'S OKAY, HE STILL HIT IT!
FUUUCK! SO HE THREW A FORK AFTER ALL...
WHOAA AAAAA, THAT WAS CLOSE!

FOUL!

SHIT... TIME-OUT!

FUCK...
.....

HUH!?
WHAT!?
DOES THE PITCHER SEEM CLOSE ALL OF A SUDDEN?

DON'T GO THINKING THAT THE OPPONENT LOOKS BIGGER AFTER YOU GOT JAMMED ONCE.

SHUT UP ALREADY!

'CAUSE YOU'RE STANDING TO THE VERY BACK OF THE BATTER BOX.

.....

WHAT NOW, YOU'RE SO NOISY.

HEY!

.....

YOU CAN'T SEE YOURSELF HITTING HIS FORK INTO THE LEFT STANDS ANYMORE, CAN YOU.

W...
WHAT...?

I
CAN!

IMAG-
INING
HIMSELF,
EH...

JUST ONE POINT...

PLEASE, ANIYA...

PLAY!

IF YOU JUST...

IF YOU JUST SEND HAMANAKA HOME, IT'S A WALK-OFF...

IT WILL BE A WALK-OFF...!

S

FOR SOME REASON HE ALWAYS STARTS AT A HUGE DISADVANTAGE.

HMM?

SO ANIYA-KUN HAS BEEN IMAGINING HIS BATS.

SEEING HOW HE'S CORNERED FOR SURE, THE OPPONENT WOULD PLAY THEIR TRUMP CARD.

SO AT FIRST HE CAN'T MAKE A SINGLE MOVE...

WITH HIS OPPONENT BEING AN AMAZING PITCHER.

IT WILL DEFINITELY BE A HOMERUN.

BUT IF HE USES HIS SUPER SENSE TO HIT IT,

AND THEN HE WILL LOOK AT THE DUMBSTRUCK PITCHER AND SAY

THIS IS NIKOGAKUUU! OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

SEE THAT, IT'S MY WIN.

EVERYBODY, GIVE ME STRENGTH...

SAITO-SAN... MURATA...

LET'S GO TO THE KOSHIEN!

奇

WHAT ANIYA IS IMAGINING IS HOW TO OVERCOME A POWERFUL ENEMY.

!?

BUT IT'S NOT JUST ABOUT HITTING IT.

HIS EVOLUTION.

E... EVOLU-TION!?

ANIYA IS ALWAYS IMAGINING HIS EVOLUTION.

WHOA!!

I...
IT WENT
THROOO
OOUGH!!

HE
DID
IIIIT!!

EH...

AH...

UWAAAAHH!
RUN
ALREADY!

A...
ALRIGHT
HAMA-
NAKA...

GO ALL
THE WAY
TO THE
HO...

ガ"
ン

IT...

IIIIT...

IIIT'S IIIIIIIIIIN!

A WALK-OFF HOME-RUUUN!!!!

.....

I...

I DID IT.

DID YOU SEE THAT, HUH!?

SEE THAT...

THIS IS MY WIIIIIIN!!

THIS IIIS NIKOGA-KUUUUU!!

THERE!

WOOOOO OOOOOO OOOOH!

A WALK OFF HOME-RUN!!

IT'S A WALK OFF HOMERUUU UUUUN!!

Vol.208 Thank You

.....

AAH ...

ナナ!!

WE WOOO OON!

WE WON AGAINST SASAZA-KIIII!

DID YOU SEE THAT!?

3A

4

UWAAA AAAAA AHHH!

YEEEE AAAH!

H... HE REALLY ...

DID IT...

I ROOOCK!

KEI-CHAN...

CHATTER

.....

AHH...

1A

KAWA-
KAMI
...

NO
WAY...

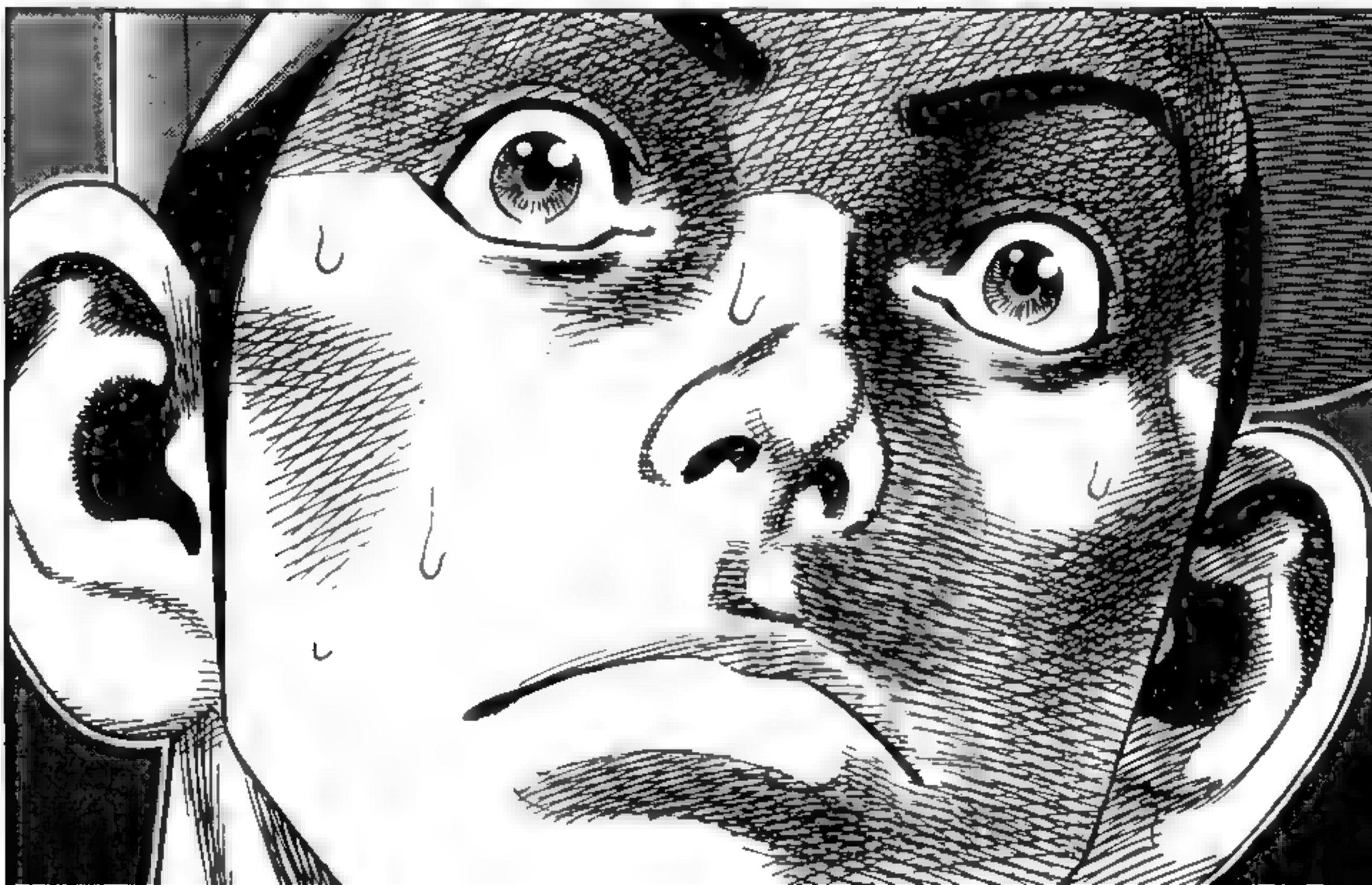
WE
ACTUALLY...

1

Vol.208

Thank you

笹峰
12



LOST...

S... SO WE...

.....

S

COACH ...

WIN

GYAHA HAHAHA! YA LITTLE BASTARD!

DAMMIT, YOU'RE THE HERO NOW!

WOOOOOW! ANIYAAAA, YER FUCKIN' AMAZIN'!

IT'S OVER...

HAS ENDED...

MY HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL CAREER...

S

10

6

2

1

T N 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 R

SAITO-SAN....

I COULDN'T KEEP MY PROMISE...

I COULDN'T KEEP OUR PROMISE...

SO IT WAS ANIYA IN THE END...

A... AMAZING...

A TWO HIT WALK OFF...

OOOH.... OOOHH...

SASAZAKI...

ACTUALLY LOST...

WHAT THE HECK ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, WASN'T THAT A PERFECT PITCH THAT WAS HIT PERFECTLY!

OR WAS IT ENTIRELY A PITCHING MISTAKE?

WAS THAT FORK'S BREAK NOT SHARP ENOUGH?

I GUESS ITS POSSIBLE SINCE IT HAPPENED.

SHI... TO THINK NIKOGAKU WOULD GET SO FAR...

OOOH, HE REALLY IS AMAZING.

"THE SHOWDOWN OF THE NEW 150 KM/H HERO!"

OH YEAH, I GOTTA GO.

I'M GOING ON AHEAD, YOSHI-SAN!

DON'T YOU THINK "THE YAKUZA COACH THAT WENT TO THE OPPONENT'S BENCH TO HIT HIM" IS MORE INTERESTING?

FLICK

A NEW HERO, EH.

HOW FAR WILL THESE SHITTY BRATS THAT WERE CHARMED BY THAT CRAZY TEACHER GO, HOW FAR WILL THEY FIGHT THE ODDS OF FATE...

NOW THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO SEE.

HMMM? OH, RIGHT. YOU PEOPLE IN MORNING SPORTS DON'T WRITE THAT KIND OF STUFF! TOO BAD, IT'S MUCH MORE INTERESTING.

ARE YA WRITING THAT?

OH MY.

NOT ONE BIT!

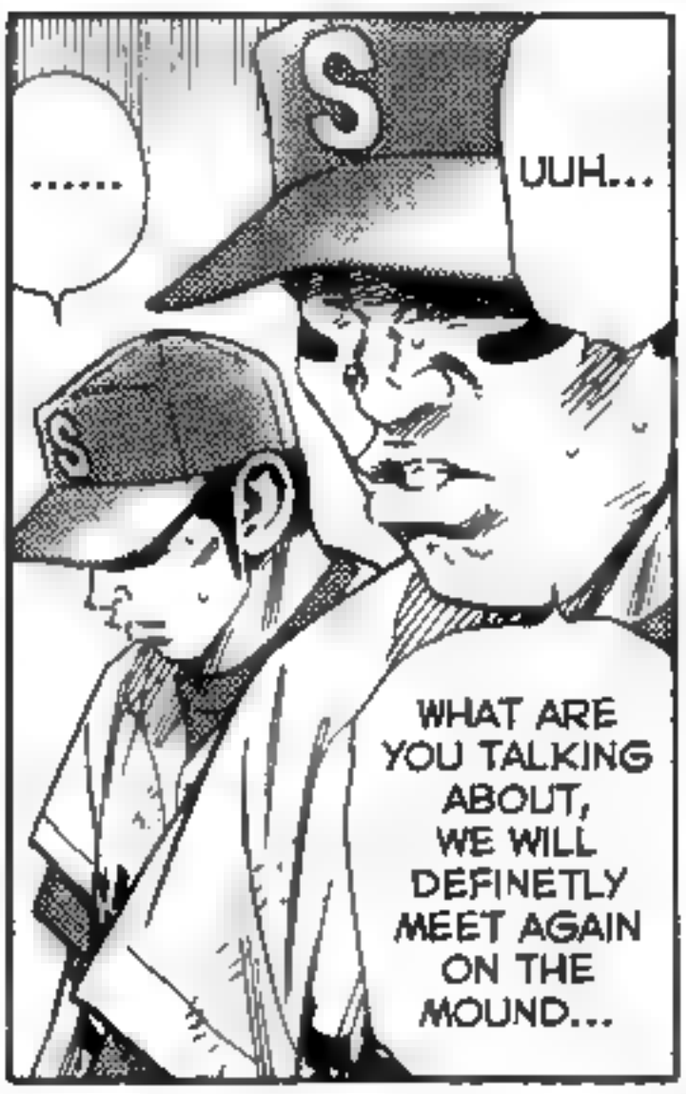
I DON'T LIKE IT.

DON'T YOU GET IN THE WAY OF THEIR DREAMS.

BOW!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

YOU DEFINETLY MUST GO TO THE KOSHIEN.



KAWAKAMI!

THATS RIGHT, WE'LL FINISH THIS IN THE PROS!

IN THE CENTRAL LEAGUE.

NO MATTER HOW MANY YEARS IT TAKES, I WILL PLAY FOR THE GIANTS...

KAWA-KAMI.

BUT THIS BROUGHT BACK SOME OLD MEMO-RIES...

A TIME WHEN PLAYERS ON BOTH TEAMS WOULD GO ALL OUT!

SIGH, OUR TEAM LOST...

CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP

CLAP CLAP

THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO SEE!

YEAH, IT REMINDED ME OF WHEN CHIBA WAS PLAYIN'.

YEAH, EVEN THOUGH WE LOST HE WAS STILL THE BEST!

ACTUALLY, I WAS REALLY MOVED BY KAWAKAMI-KUN!

WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, THAT WAS AN AMAZING GAME.

SIGH... HOW DISAP-POINTING.

IF ONLY HE DIDN'T HIT IT.

KAWAKAMI!!!! THERE'S STILL NEXT YEAR!!

WELL DOOONE! NICE GAAAME!

WELL DONE, WELL PLAYED!

SASAZAKI IS THE BEEEST!

GREAT GAME!

DON'T CRY, KAWAKAMI.

笹崎

.....!

KAWA-KAMI...

YOUR PITCHING WAS FABU-LOUS.

EVERYBODY FOUGHT WELL.

YOU HAVE MY THANKS.

YOU THREW WELL.

I ALSO THANK YOU FOR REMINDING ME OF SOME-THING VERY IMPORTANT.

I AM PROUD TO BE THIS TEAM'S COACH.

THANK YOU.

.....

WHAT'S WRONG, SENSEI?

YEAAA AAAH!

YEAAAAAH, NIKOGAKU, YEAAAA AAAH!

YOU'RE GOING AGAIN!?

COME, WE SHOULD ALSO GO GREET THE PEOPLE IN THE STANDS!

COACH CHIBA!

I AM TRULY VERY SORRY!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME FOR WHAT HAPPENED EARLIER!

OH!

WHOA, HIM AGAIN!

KAWATO-SAN...

I'M SORRY!

AND THAT WE GOT TO MEET YOU.

I'M HAPPY WE PLAYED AGAINST NIKOGAKU TODAY

T... THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

I BELIEVE IN NIKOGAKU'S ABILITY TO BECOME CHAMPIONS.

I AM SURE YOU WILL CREATE A BIG COMMOTION AT THE KOSHIEN...

EH...

.....

!

ドド

ドド

ドド

ドド

OOOH ...

WHOAA...

YOU GUYS ARE THE REAL DEAL!

SORRY ABOUT ALL THE CRAP WE SAIIID!

THAT WAS GREAAAT, NIKOGAKU!

WE'LL BE ROOTING FOR YA!

YOU DEFINETELY HAVE TO GO TO THE KOSHIEN!

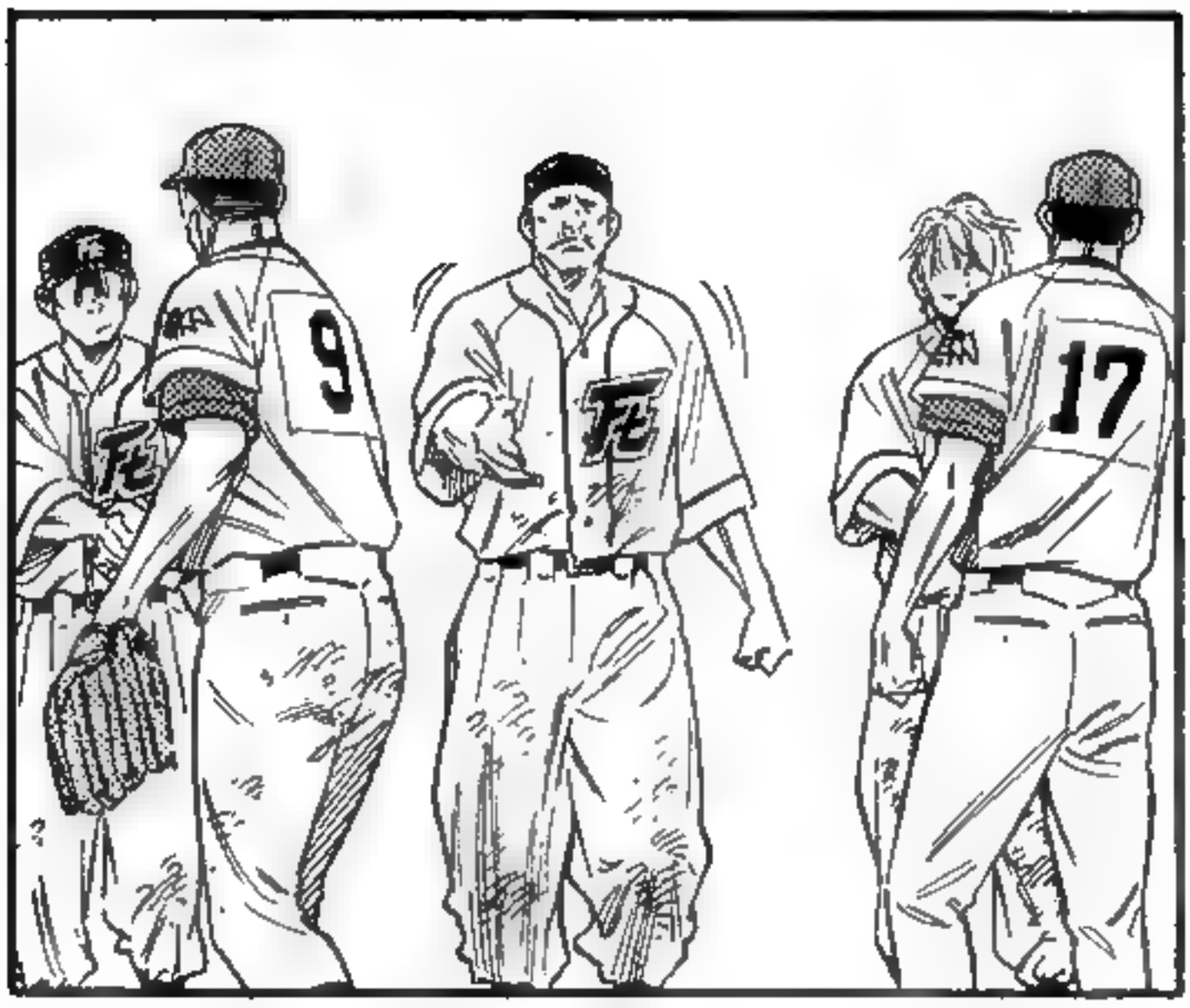
GOOD LUCK, NIKOGAKUUU!

GOOOD LUUUUU UUUCK!

THAT'S RIGHT AND YOU MUST BECOME THE CHAMPS!

KAWATO-SAN.

HA... HAHA...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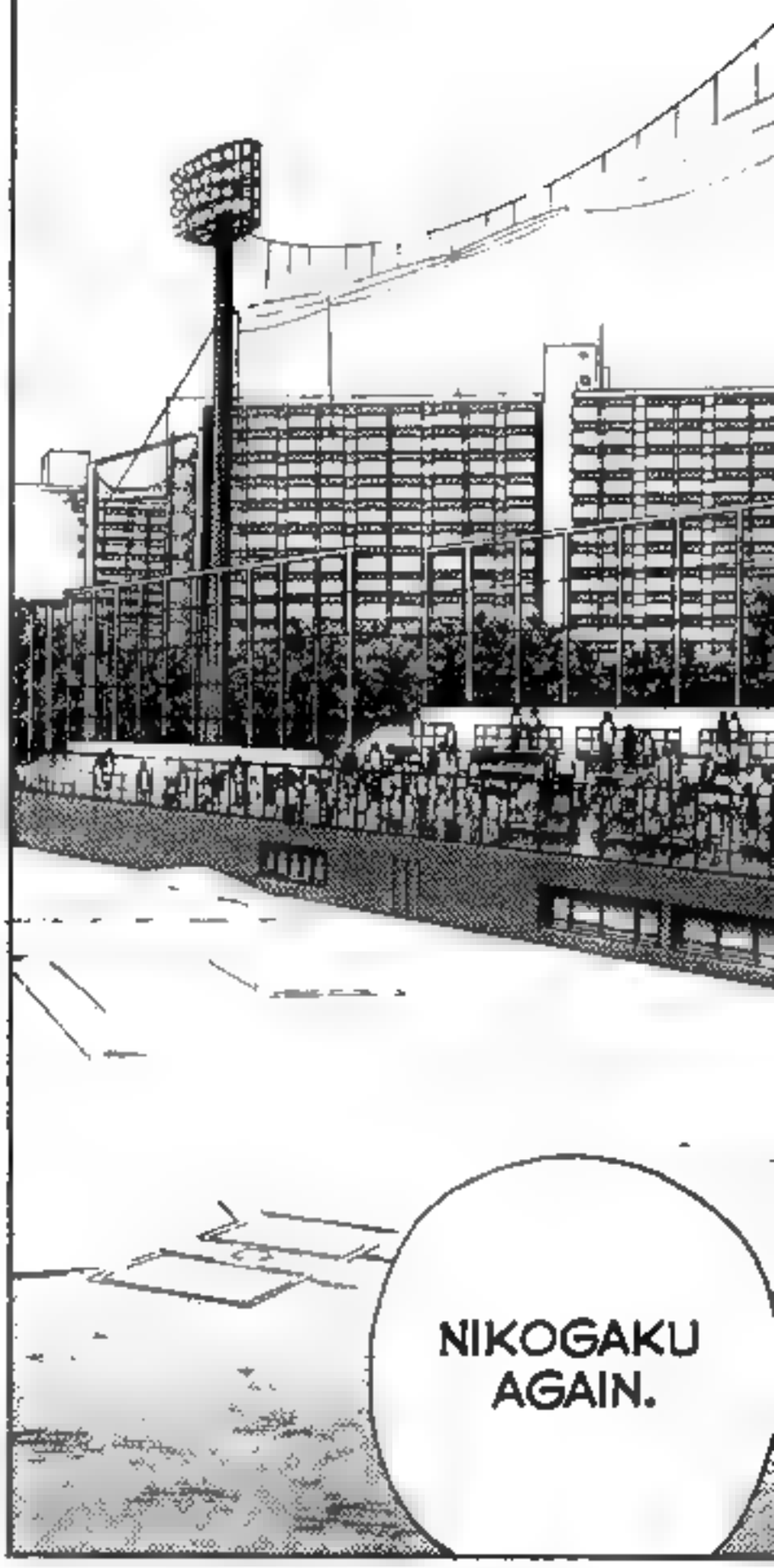
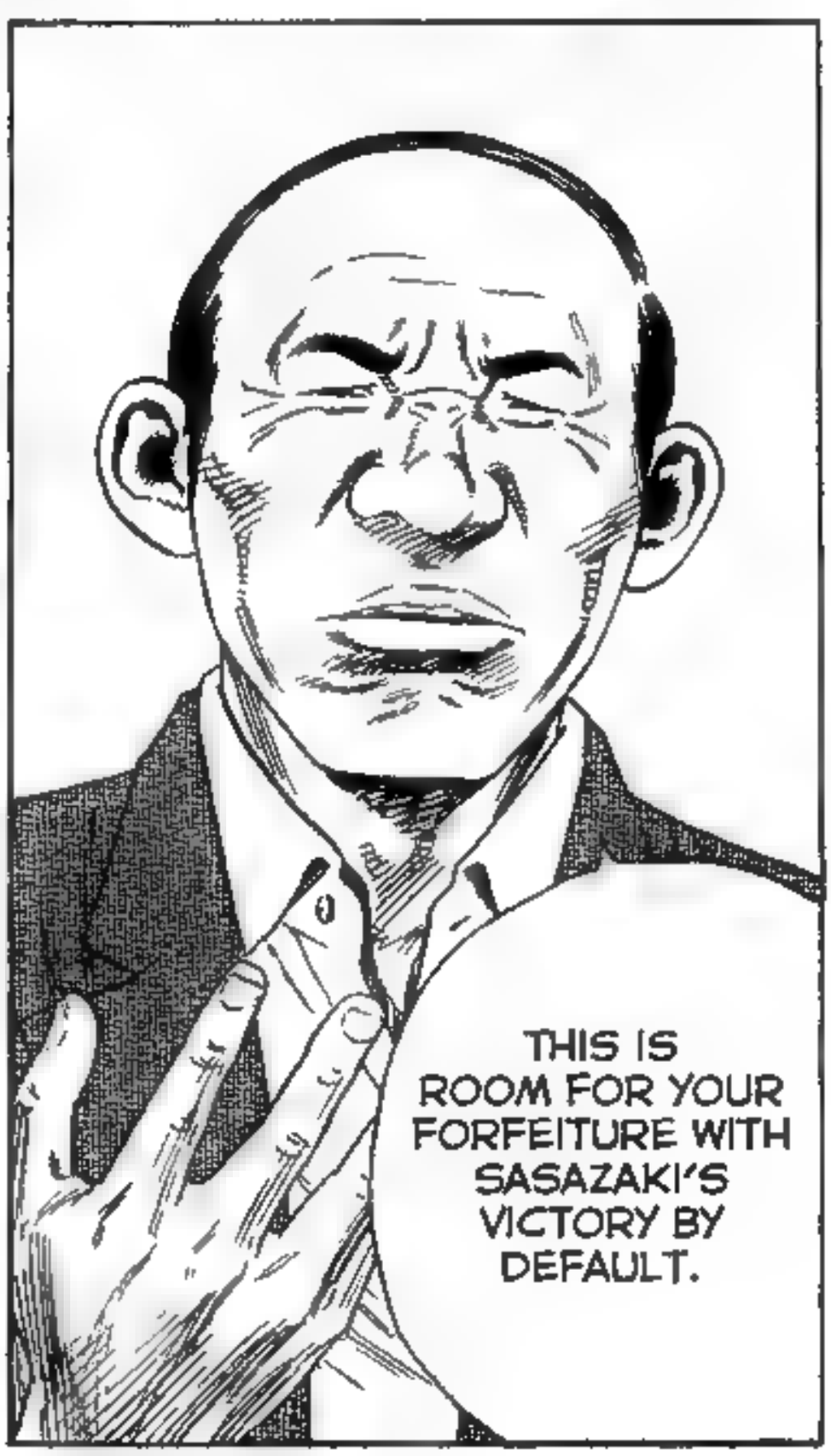
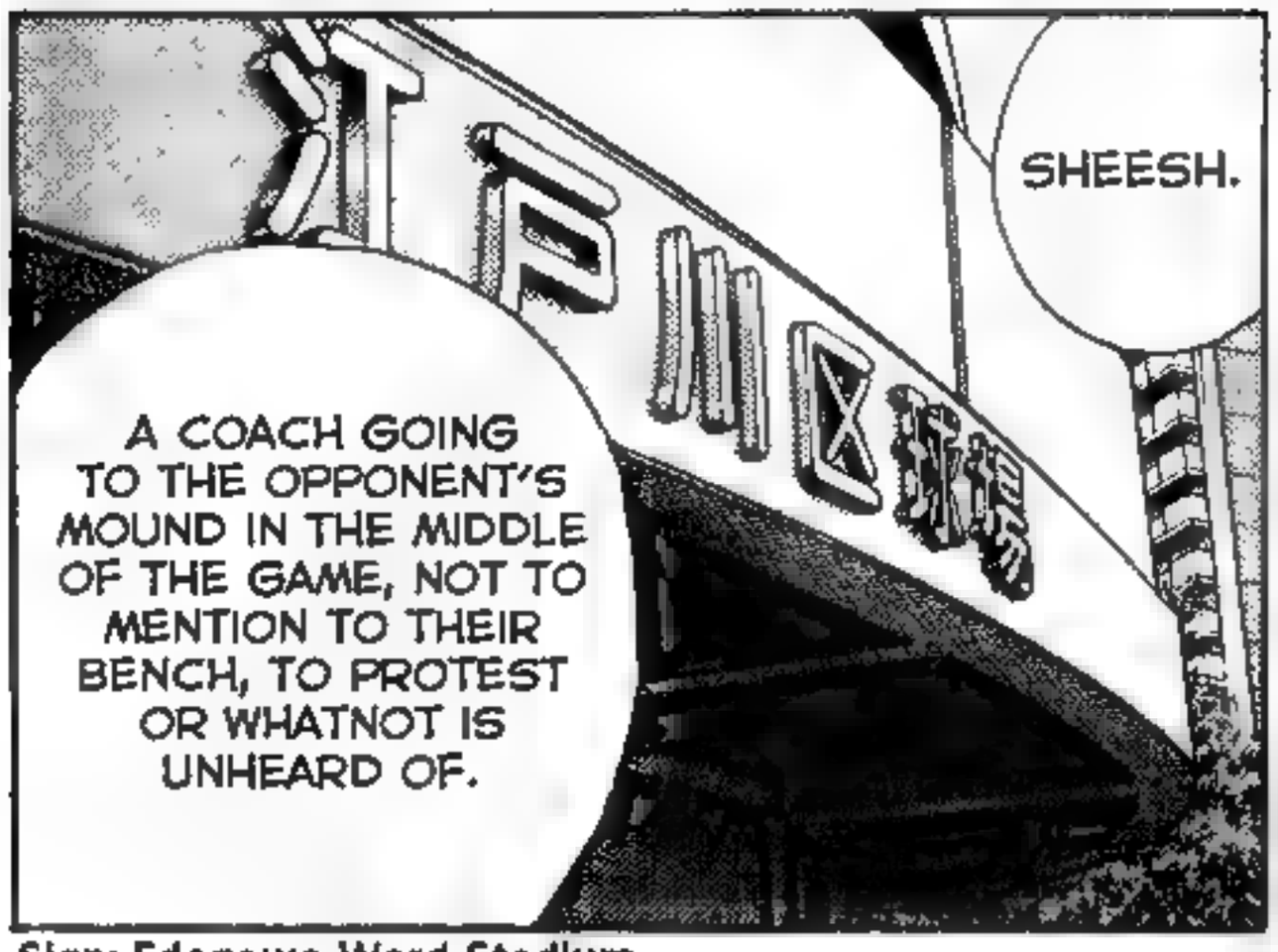
Vol.209 HEROES






SHEESH.
A COACH GOING TO THE OPPONENT'S MOUND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE GAME, NOT TO MENTION TO THEIR BENCH, TO PROTEST OR WHATNOT IS UNHEARD OF.

Sign: Edogawa Ward Stadium

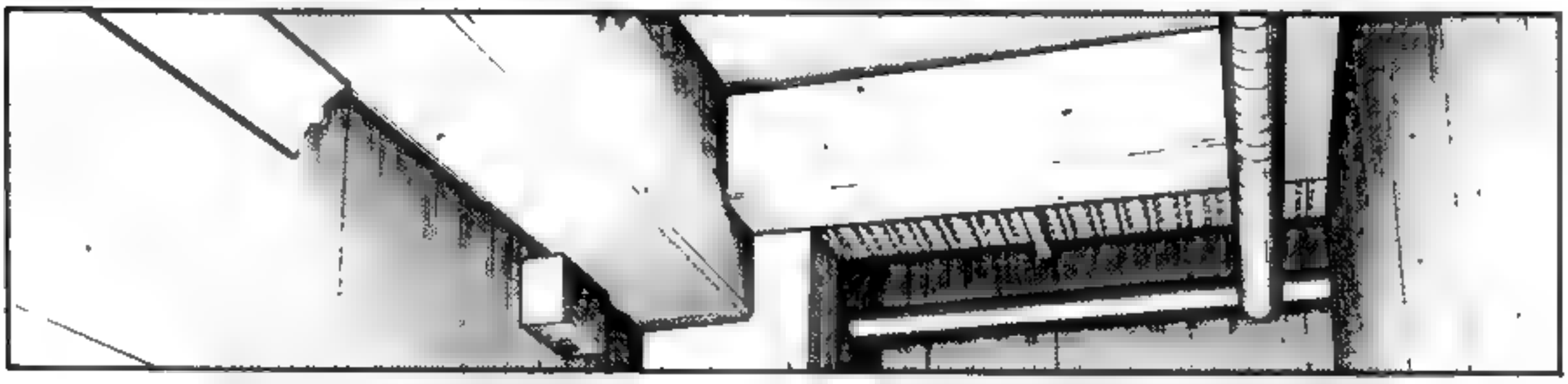
...!

....
WHAT THE HECK DO YOU TAKE HIGHSCHOOL BASEBALL FOR?
THE ONES YOU HURT ARE THE PLAYERS.

THE DREAMS THEY'VE BEEN WORKING SO HARD FOR.
ARE YOU PLANNING TO TRAMPLE ON THOSE KID'S PURE DREAMS?

THEIR DREAMS ...
ME...?

本郷實
I HOPE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'VE DONE.
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED.



GIVE US A COMMENT, ANIYA-KUN.
CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR BIG VICTORY.
CONGRATULATIONS, ANIYA-KUN.
PLEASE GRANT US AN INTERVIEW.
WHOAAA!

ナイ!

HNN!?

WHOAA, IT'S DEFINITELY DIFFERENT THIS TIME.

AND NOBODY EVEN CARES ABOUT MY TRICKY SWING THAT GAVE US THE TIE!?

HOW DO YOU FEEL NOW AFTER DEFEATING THE CHAMPIONS, SASAZAKI?

DID IT GO LIKE YOU EXPECTED?

WHAT ABOUT YOUR PITCHES?

WAS THAT YOUR FIRST WALK OFF HOMERUN?

GIVE US A COMMENT, MIKOSHIBA-KUN.

WHOA!

HOW IS YOUR FINGER, WAKANA-KUN?

OH!?

YA REALLY WANNA KNOW?

OH!? FOR REAL!?

YOUR BATTING FORM IS AMAZING, YUFUNE-KUN. WHAT DO YOU CALL IT?

DID YOU KNOW YOU GOT 150KM/H ON THE SPEED GUN!?

YOU'RE GONNA GET EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION AROUND THE NATION NOW!

THIS WILL TURN YOU INTO SUPERSTARS AFTER THAT DISGRACE FROM A YEAR AGO!

WHAT WILL YOU DO IF YOU GET SCOUTED BY THE PROS OR THE MAJORS!?

NICE PITCHING, ANIYA-KUN! AND NIIIIIIICE BATTING!!

SHUT UP, MORNING SPORTS.

SAY SOMETHING, ANIYA-KUN.

ANIYA-KUN!

!

AREN'T YOU GONNA ASK IF WE REALLY WON BY OUR OWN EFFORT THIS TIME?

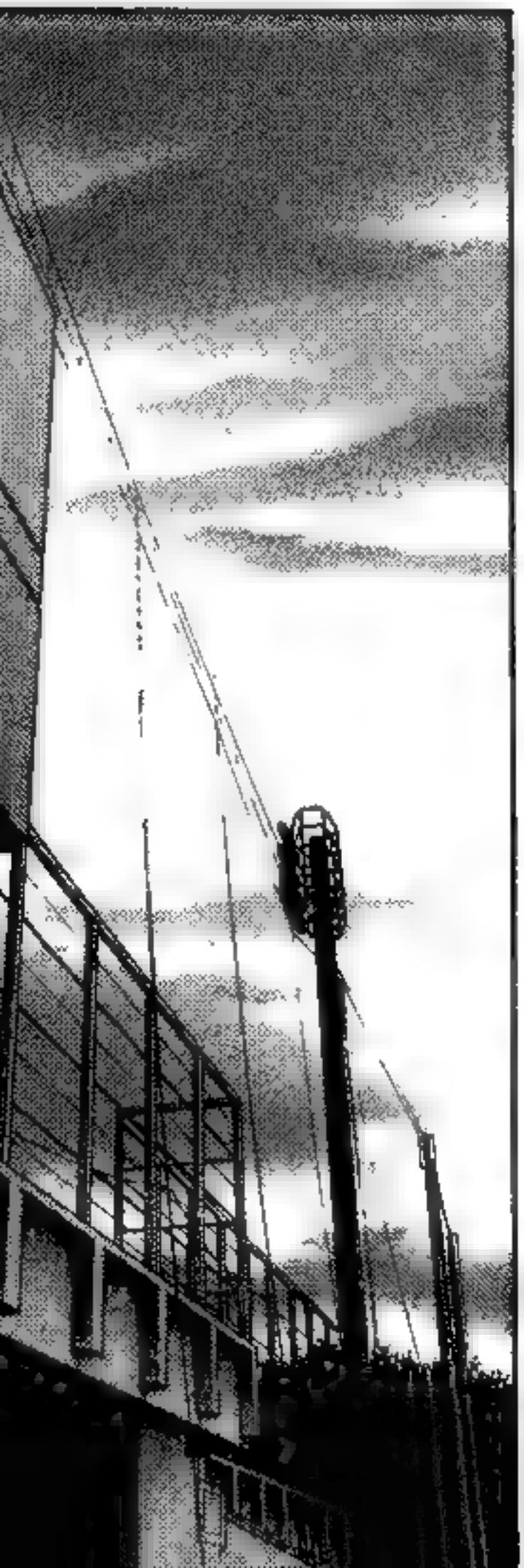
UUUH...

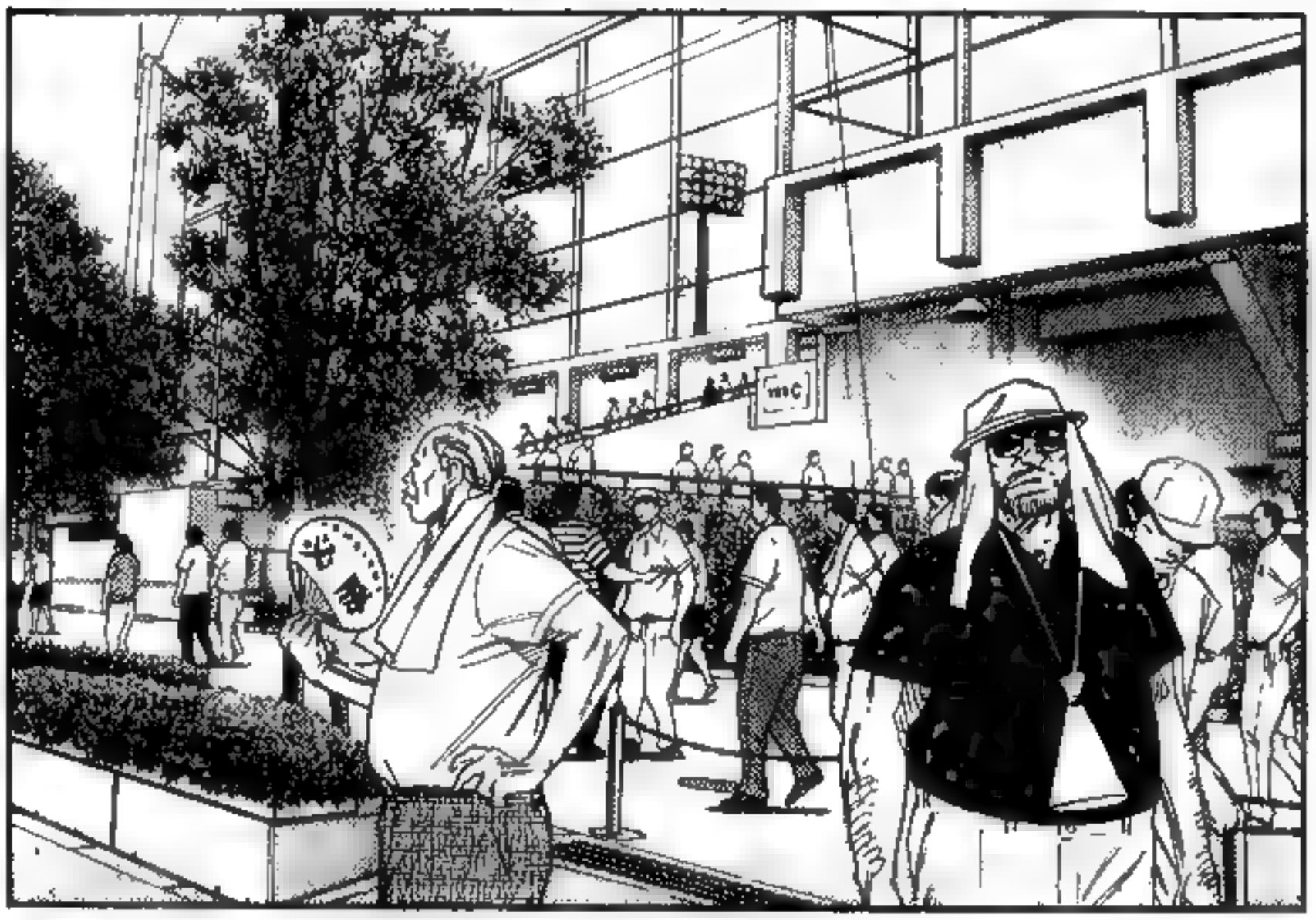
NO...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, WE FIXED THE GAME.

PSYYYYCH!

AHAHAHA HAHAHA HAHAHA!!





	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	計
Higashio	0	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	0				5
Yoshitaka Jitsugyo	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0				1
Sasazaki	2	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0			5
Futako-tamagawa	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	0	1	2X			7

Summer Koshien With You

A NEW MONSTER APPEARS

HIS NAME IS

ZEN

FUTAKO TAMAGAWA

Sasazaki was torn to shreds!

Aniya Keichi
1m81cm (5'10")
75kg (165lbs)
Right handed
pitcher and hitter
Max 150km/h
Blood type O

The winner of the 150km/h showdown!

Nikogaku is here! Wait for them KOSHIEN

Futakotamagawa

Rise to the top

〈東京〉
▽四回戦（江戸川
笹 崎
200 20
012 00
二子玉川
（笹）川上
（二）安仁屋

別所三発お

HOHO!

LEMME SEE, LEMME SEE.

REALLY, NOW... THIS IS SOME AMAZIN' PUBLICITY.

TO THINK THEY DEFEATED SASAZAKI...

WHOAAA!

IT'S JUST A REGIONAL GAME, NOT EVEN A FINAL OR ANYTHING, BUT LOOK HOW EVERYBODY WROTE ABOUT IT...

KAWATO-KUN HAS FINALLY DONE IT.

DEFEATING SASAZAKI HAS FINALLY SHOWED EVERYBODY THAT NIKOGAKU IS THE REAL THING.

ALMOST NOBODY EVEN MENTIONS THE SCANDAL FROM LAST YEAR ANYMORE.

!

IN THE END, WE SHOULD'VE GONE TO WATCH.

SHI...

OH MY, NOTHING LESS FROM KAWATO-SENSEI! ♡

I'M SEEING KAWATO-KUN IN A NEW LIGHT.

I WANT THE WHOLE SCHOOL TO GO CHEER THEM ON FOR THE NEXT GAME.

HAVE KAWATO-KUN AND VICE PRINCIPAL IKEBE NOT ARRIVED YET?

P... PRINCIPAL ...

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

WHA WHA WHAA!?

TH... THIS IS...

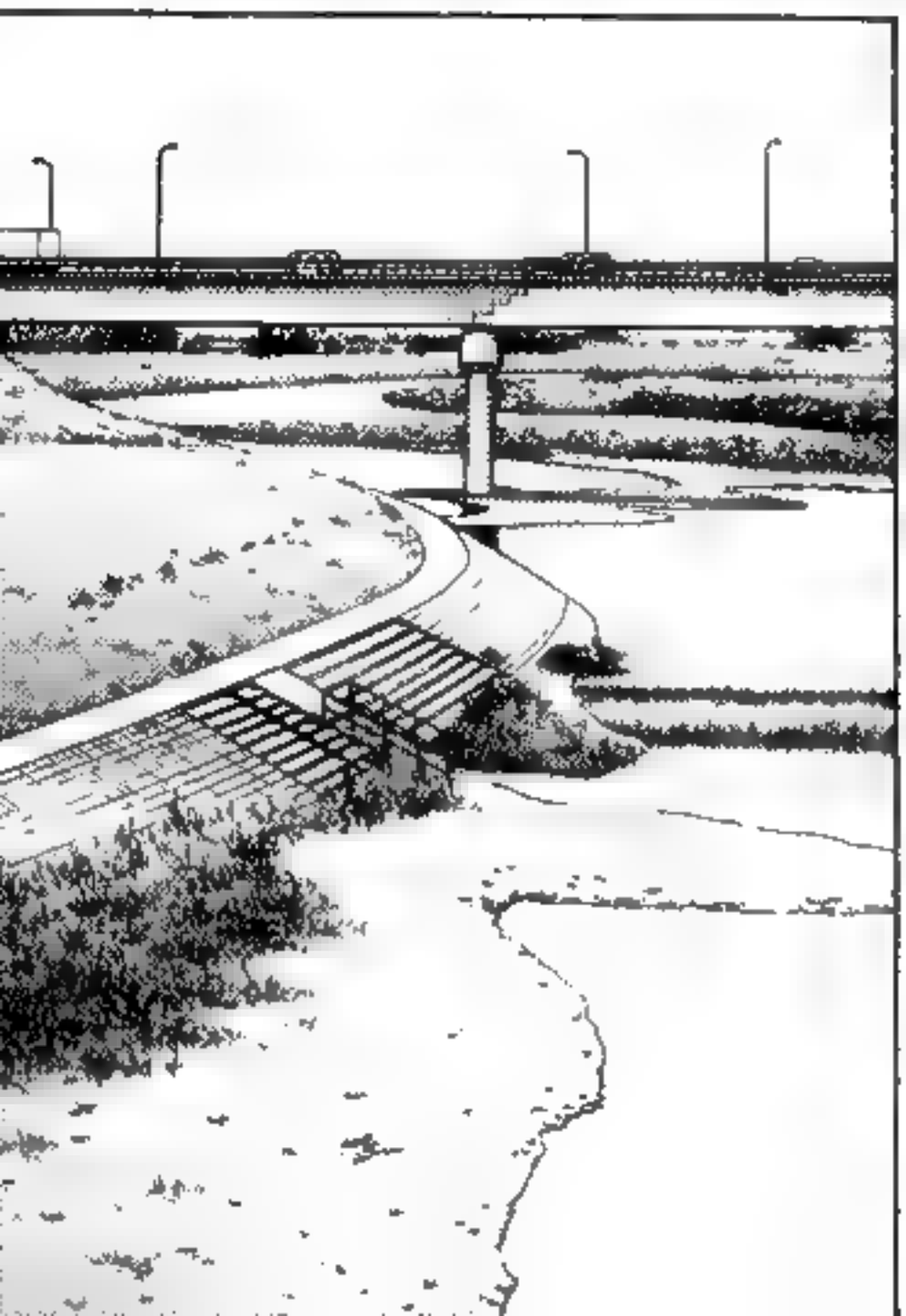
HNN!?

?

FUFU FU.
IT MIGHT BE TOO EARLY TO SEE HIM IN A NEW LIGHT.

ｶﾞﾗﾗ!

G... GOOD MORNING.



IT'S UNFORTUNATE, BUT THIS TOURNAMENT IS OVER.

HOWEVER, I'M CONVINCED THAT WE'VE GAINED SOMETHING GREAT FROM THE NIKOGAKU GAME.

Sasazaki High School Private Baseball Grounds

NEXT YEAR WE WILL DEFINITELY GO TO THE KOSHIEN!

THIS WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF SASAZAKI'S TRUE GOLDEN AGE!

THIS WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF SASAZAKI'S TRUE GOLDEN AGE!

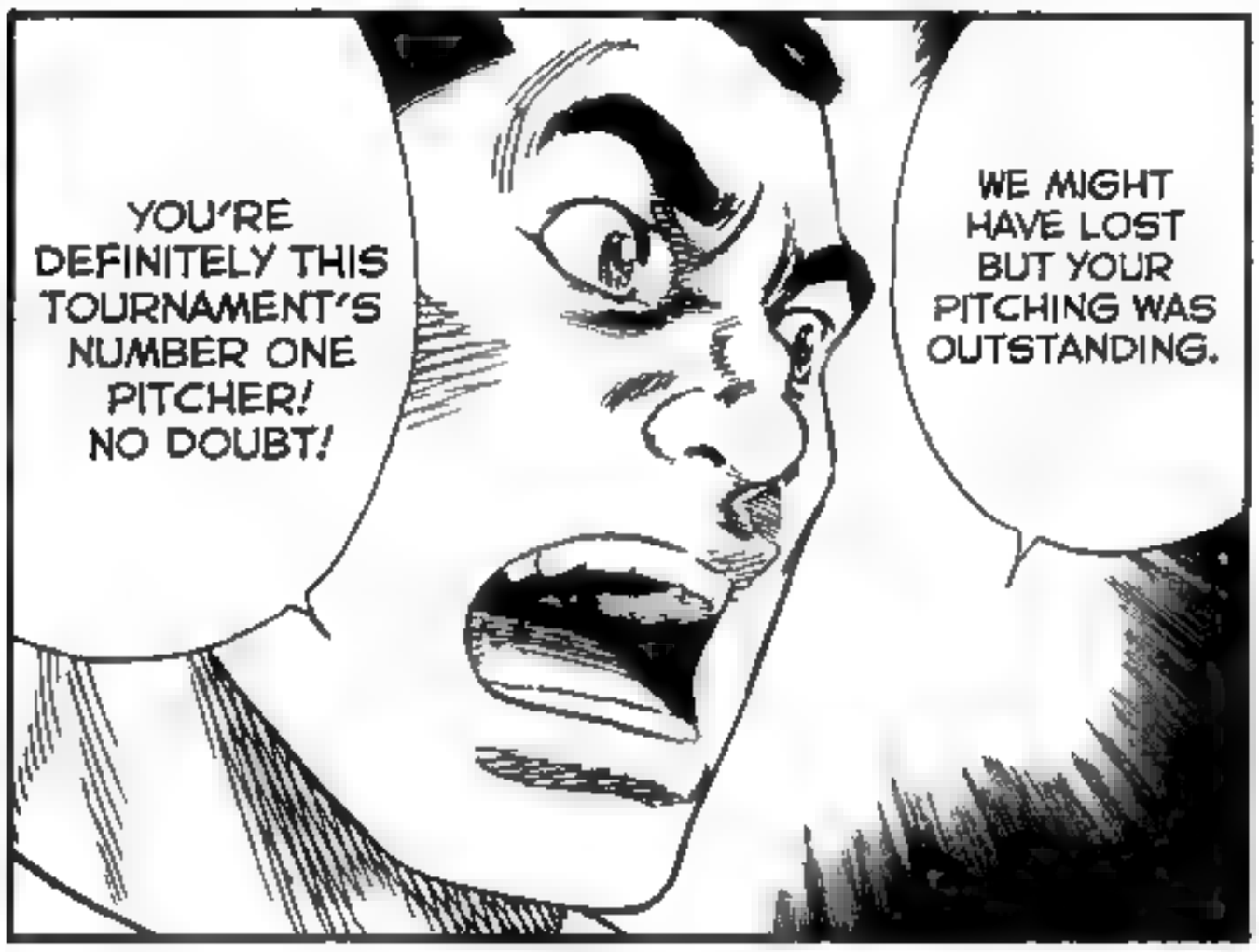
OUR DEPARTURE WILL MEAN NOTHING IN DECREASING YOUR STRENGTH.

WE THIRD YEARS WILL RETIRE NOW, BUT

PFFT!
WHAAAT!?
YOU SAID THAT ALREADY!
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
COME TO THINK OF IT, YER NOT THE CAPTAIN.
SO WHY ARE YOU EVEN TALKING?
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE

.....

KAWAKAMI!


YOU'RE DEFINITELY THIS TOURNAMENT'S NUMBER ONE PITCHER! NO DOUBT!
WE MIGHT HAVE LOST BUT YOUR PITCHING WAS OUTSTANDING.

TO BE ABLE TO MEET AN EXCEPTIONAL PITCHER LIKE YOU!

ALL OF US HERE ARE GRATEFUL TO YOU.

TO PLAY ON THE SAME TEAM AS YOU!

HOLD YOUR HEAD HIGH!

HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP BROODING!?

BE CONFIDENT!

THERE'S SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN WINNING OR LOSING!

BE PROUD!

IT'S HOW YOU FOUGHT!

AND THAT'S WHY WE CAN RETIRE WITH A SMILE!

WE'VE SEEN THE SASAZAKI SPIRIT INSIDE OF YOU!

THE REST IS IN YOUR HANDS NOW! KAWAKAMI!!

LISTEN, FROM NOW ON YER MR. SASAZAKI!

B... BESSHO-SAN...

DON'T CRY, YA IDIOT...

YER GONNA MAKE ME...

.....

LISTEN UP, SASAZAKI'S TRUE GOLDEN AGE BEGINS NOW!

SSH... SHUT UP ALREADY!

CHUCKLE CHUCKLE

UWAAAH, THAT'S THE THIRD TIME ALREADY.

I'VE DONE SOMETHING TERRI...
SAITO...

YOU CAME.
COACH!

WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO HEAR ANY OF THAT.
PLEASE, DON'T SAY ANYTHING.

WE HAVE FINALLY ACCEPTED IT.
WHAT WE CAME TO TELL KAWAKAMI WAS ALREADY CONVEYED BY BESSHO.

SAITO,
WE WERE SO HAPPY WHEN WE WATCHED THE GAME YESTERDAY.
WE CAME TO TELL YOU HOW MOVED WE WERE.

WE KNOW IT.

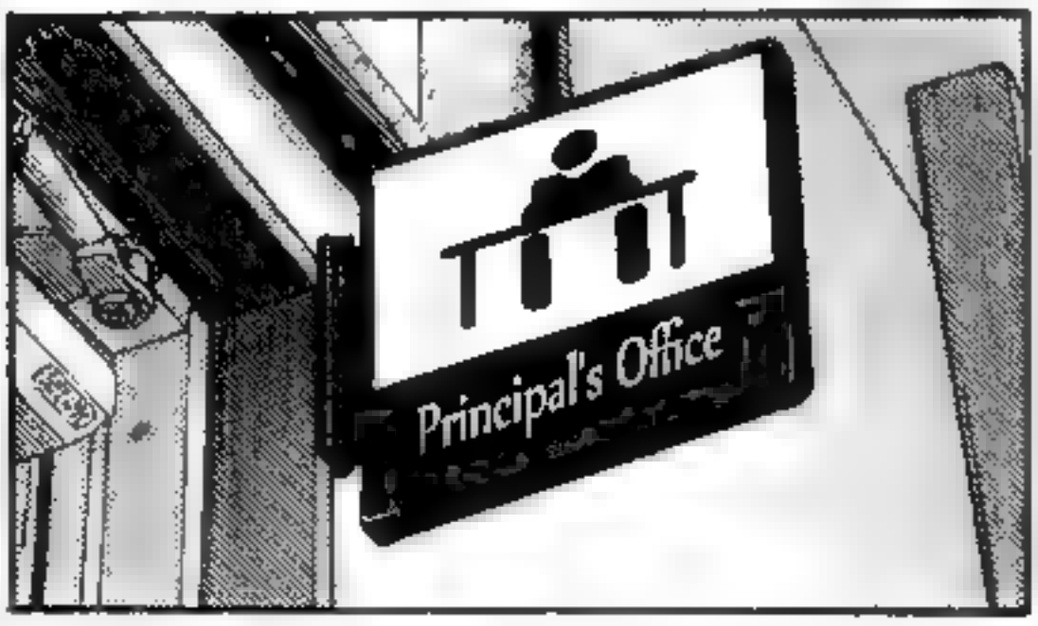
HE REALLY GREW.

NEXT YEAR THEY REALLY WILL BE UNSTOPPABLE.

THANK YOU.

.....

...THANK YOU...


Principal's Office

Did Nikogaku really change?
Coach Kawato Koichi
KAWAZU MAKES REVIVAL

Vol.210
Cause and Effect

"A NEW MONSTER APPEARS", IT SAYS!

THEY'RE TALKIN' ABOUT IT IN ALL THE PAPERS!

DID YOU SEE IT!? THE PAPERS, MAN!

I DID, I DID!

YOU KIDDIN'!? IT WAS 150KM/H!?

YOU IDIOT, THAT'S RARE EVEN IN THE PROS!

IS THAT ALOT!?

ARE THEY REALLY TALKIN' ABOUT US!?

WHOA, AMAZIN'!

OOOHH! THE MONSTER MAKES HIS ENTRANCE!

YO.

ANIYA-KUN!

AHHH... OUTTA THA WAY, OUTTA THA WAY.

ANIYA-KUN!

WE SAW THE PAPERS!

AH, THERE HE IS!

KYAAAAA!

ANIYA-KUN!

ANIYA-KUN!

ANIYA-KUN!

ANIYA-KUN!

ANIYA-KUN!

MAKE WAY, MAKE WAY.

OKAY, COME BACK LATER FOR AUTO-GRAPHS.

WHO'RE YOU?

KYAAA! YOU'RE SO COOL, ANIYA-KUUUN!

キャア

I KNOW. WE'LL DISGUISE OURSELVES WITH SUN-GLASSES, THEN.

HIRACCHI, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO WANTS TO BE A STAR THE MOST!

HEHEHE...

DO YOU UNDERSTAND? IF THEY FIND OUT WE'RE FROM THE BASEBALL CLUB THEY WILL ATTACK US LIKE THAT.

WE HAVE TO SLIP BY SOMEHOW WITHOUT BEING FOUND OUT.

EXCUSE ME, DAMMIT!

OOOH!

EXCUSE ME.

DON'T GO PASSING THROUGH THE AREAS WITH PEOPLE ON PURPOSE!

WAIT, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

WAAH, WHO THE HELL IS THAT!?

HYAAH!

AH, EXCUSE ME.

KYAAH!

GYAHAHAHA! DON'T PUSH, DON'T PUSH.

WOOOH, IT SEEMS WE'RE SUPER POPULAR.

OOOHHHH! IT'S THE BASEBALL CLUB!

WE'LL COME WATCH YOU NEXT TIME!

YOU GUYS ROCK!

PLEASE SHAKE MY HAND!

KYAAAAH! IT'S MIKO-SHIBA-KUN!

IS YOUR FINGER OKAY, WAKANA!?

WHOAAA! AMAZIN'!

HEHEHE! CHECK IT OUT! WE'RE STARS, MAN!

THIS IS MY AUTOGRAPH! YOU SHOULD BE GRATEFUL!

HEY!! WHAT ARE YOU WRITING ON MY BACK!?

SHOW ME THAT PAPER!

Baseball Club

GYAHAHA HAHA!!

LOOKIE HERE!

"YUFUNE SCORED THE TYING POINT WITH HIS MIRACULOUS HIT!" GYAHAHAHA!

I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WE BEAT SASAZAKI, BUT IT'S REALLY WRITTEN IN THE PAPER!

THAT'S ONLY NATURAL WITH THOSE THROWS AND HITS.

DAAAMN... BUT ALL OF THESE PAPERS ARE ALMOST ONLY TALKIN' ABOUT ANIYA...

IT'S JUST THE BEGINNING.

NOW WE'RE PART OF THE SIXTEEN BEST TEAMS!

IF ONLY I WASN'T LIKE THIS...!

FUCK, IF ONLY I COULD PLAY...

THEN WHAT WILL IT BE WHEN WE'VE WON THE FINALS!?

WOOOOW... BEING PART OF THE BEST SIXTEEN TEAMS IS ALMOST LIKE A DREAM...

ALTHOUGH I DEFINITELY WOULDN'T MIND IF THE GAME WAS POSTPONED BECAUSE OF RAIN...

AH YEAH, I CAN KINDA RUN...

WHAT ABOUT YOU, SEKIKAWA?

I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING SO WE COULD FOCUS ON THE SASAZAKI GAME.

HUH?

.....

COME TO THINK OF IT, WHO'S OUR NEXT OPPONENT?

NEXT GAME IS TOMORROW, RIGHT?

ARE THEY STRONG?

SO, WHO IS IT?

THIRD HIGH AND...?

BETWEEN TAMADAI THIRD HIGH AND...

IT STARTS AT 10:30 IN JINGU STADIUM..

IT'LL BE DECIDED TODAY.

OUR OPPONENTS WILL BE THE TEAM THAT WINS THIS MORNING'S GAME.

Megurogawa 3

THEM.

WH... WHAT!?

MEGU-ROGAWA !?

NO WAY!?

EEEEHH HHHH!?

AND FROM THE PLAYERS WE PLAYED THE EXHIBITION GAME AGAINST, ONLY FOUR OF THEM HAVE SINCE BECOME REGULAR PLAYERS ON THE TEAM...

THE ONES WE PLAYED BEFORE WEREN'T THEIR REGULARS.

THEY CAN'T BE COMPARED TO THE TIME WE PLAYED THEM.

THEY'RE JUST AS STRONG AS SASAZAKI, IF NOT STRONGER!

ENATSU GOT THE ACE NUMBER.

KONO IS NUMBER FOUR.

WE CAN'T BE COMPARED TO OURSELVES FROM BACK THEN EITHER.

FUFU...

THE MATCH STARTS AT 10:30, RIGHT?

TO JINGU STADIUM, OF COURSE.

REMEMBER, IT'S THANKS TO MY MIRACULOUS HOMERUN THAT WE WON...

EH!? WHERE TO?

WHAT ABOUT THE CLOSING CEREMONY?

YEAAAAH, I'M GOING TOO!

YOU CAN REPRESENT US, MIKOSHIBA!

ME TOO.

AIGHT, LET'S GO.

.....

ヒ"ロ...!!!

UWAH!

AHHH! HEY, I'M COMING TOO!

WHAT THA FUCK IS THAAAT!?

AAAHHH! YOU LITTLE...!

WHAT IF WE CAN'T ENTER THE PRELIMINARIES JUST BECAUSE OF A SINGLE CIGARETTE!?

DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANT POSITION WE'RE IN NOW!?

Y... YES, SIR!

I'M SORRY, I WON'T SMOKE ANYMORE!

YOU SNEAKY LITTLE BASTARD!

HIIIIE!

YOU KNOW SMOKIN' IS PROHIBITED, DON'T YA!?

HEY, QUIT MESSING AROUND!!

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY SCHOOLS PENALIZED BECAUSE OF THAT!

STEALING, DRIVING WITHOUT A LICENCE, DRINKING, SMOKING...

NOT ONE BIT!

WELL, THAT MIGHT BE AN EXAGGER-ATION.

OI, YOU GET THAT?

THAT GOES FOR YOU TOO, WAKANA!

Y... YES SIR...

IN ANY CASE, JUST CONTROL YOUR-SELVES!

THERE ARE JOURNALISTS EVERYWHERE! EVERYBODY IS WATCHING US!

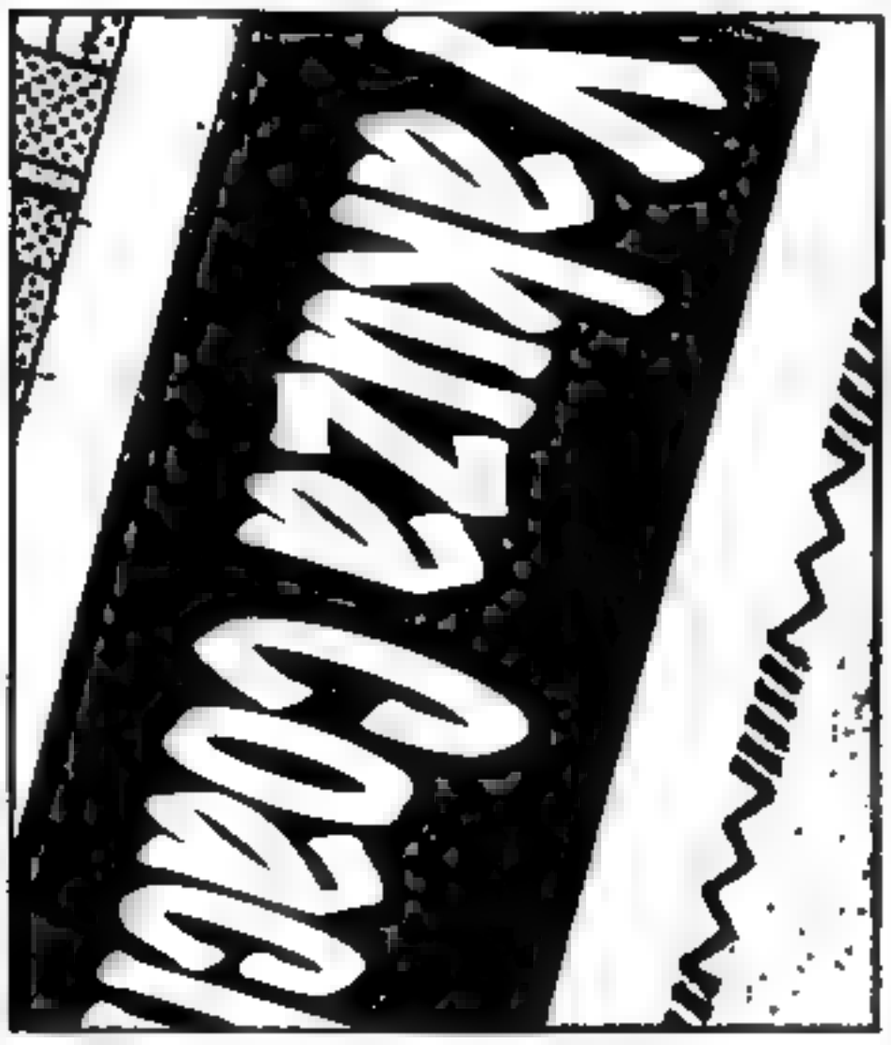
WE'RE REALLY COUNTING ON YOU!

AND MOST IMPORTANT OF ALL, IF ANYBODY PICKS A FIGHT WITH YOU, BE SURE TO RUN AWAY!

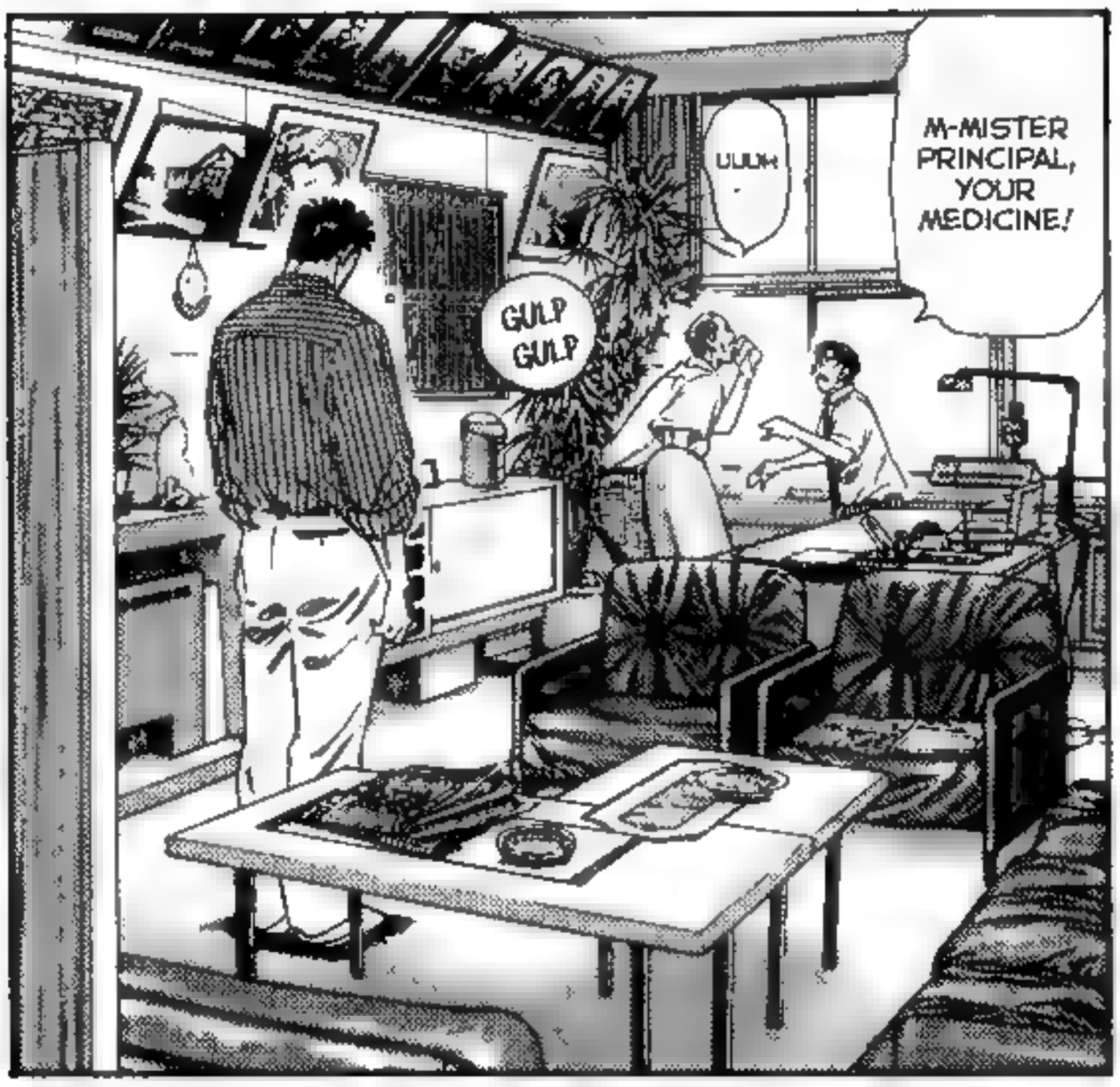
WE FINALLY GOT RID OF THE VIOLENT SCHOOL IMAGE.

WE KNOW THAT MUCH.

UH...



NO, WE DIDN'T.


GULP GULP
UUUM
M-MISTER PRINCIPAL, YOUR MEDICINE!

UUGH... OWOWOW OWWW!

HUH?
WELL?
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?

HOW COULD SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING SO RECK-LESS...
YOU SHOULD BE ASHAMED ...

.....
AND I WAS FINALLY STARTING TO RE-THINK MY OPINION OF YOU...

SO, WHAT WILL YOU DO?
YOU WERE TOLD TO DO SOMETHING THAT WOULD CLEARLY SHOW THAT YOU SPENT SOME TIME REFLECTING ON WHAT YOU DID, WEREN'T YOU?

HAVING SAID THAT, WE CAN'T RUIN THE CHILDREN'S DREAM.

AND NOW THE COACH GETS INTO A FIGHT...

THAT BRAWLING INCIDENT HAPPENED ONLY A YEAR AGO...

IT'S THE LEAST YOU CAN DO AT A TIME LIKE THIS.

!

WILL YOU WITHDRAW FROM THE TOURNAMENT?

HMPH!

BUT... PRINCIPAL, THAT...

.....

.....

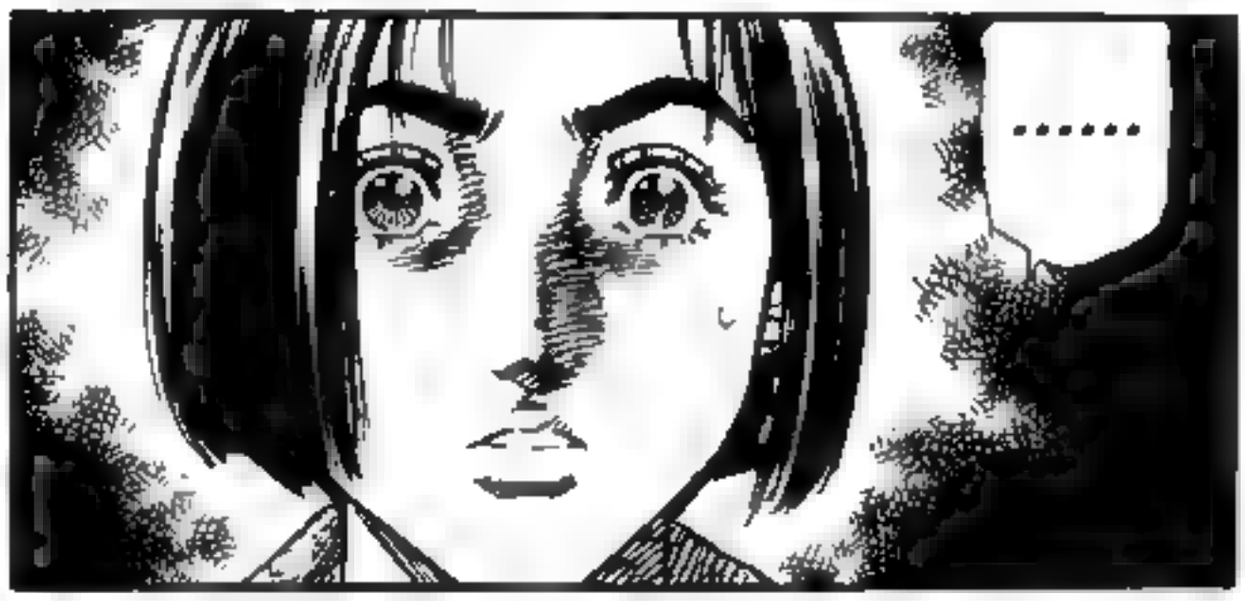
AND FOR ALL OF THE SUBSEQUENT GAMES...

VERY WELL. DURING THIS TOURNAMENT...

I WILL PLACE MYSELF UNDER SUSPENSION.

....

IF YOU HADN'T HAD TAKEN THAT DECISION YOURSELF, THE ASSOCIATION PROBABLY WOULD HAVE TAKEN IT FOR YOU.
GOOD CHOICE.


.....

MEIJI JINGU

Asahi Shinbun

	一	二	三	四	五	六	七	八	九	十	R
Tama S	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0
Meiji-rogawa	1	0	2	0	0	1	0				4

M
2

ENEOS

WHOAAA
...
IT'S
GONE...

A...
AMAZIN'...

ANIYA-KUN! PLEASE! SHAKE MY HAND!!

GIVE ME AN AUTO-GRAPH!

ANIYA-KUUUN!

OI, LET ME GO! GO AWAY!

B... BUT... BESSHO WAS BETTER, RIGHT...

RIGHT, ANIYA?

I DON'T CARE ABOUT THAT STUFF... MORE IMPOR-TANTLY, SAVE ME!

HUH?

SHI...

GAME SET!

HEYYY, WAIT!

OI, THE FUCKING GAME IS OVER!

STRIII IIIIKE!

BATTER OOOUT!

WHAT THE HELL ARE THOSE ASSHOLES DOING?

FLIRTIN' AROUND LIKE THAT...

KYAAA! IT'S NIKO-GAKU!

WE'RE HEADIN' BACK, YOU FUCK.

GYAHA HAHA!

OH? YOU KNOW US?

YOU WANT ME TO KISS YA ON THE LIPS, HUH!?

OH, NOOOO... ♡

ARE THEY LOOKING DOWN ON US?

OH YEAH.

HUUUH? AIN'T THAT THA GUY FROM THE PAPER?

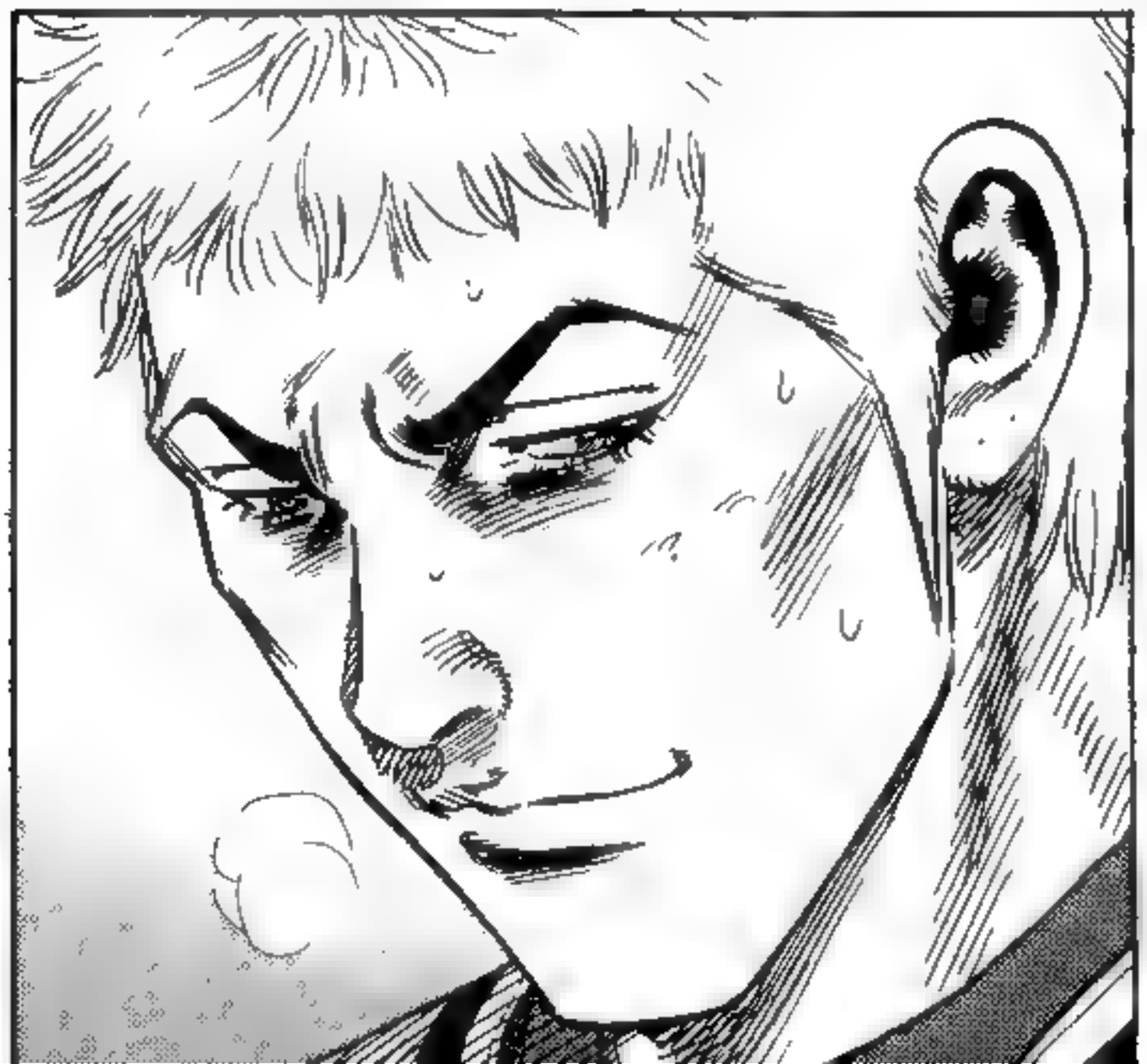
AS YOU CAN SEE, IT'S MEGUROGAWA HIGHSCHOOL'S VICTORY WITH A SCORE OF SIX TO NOTHING.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

Vol.211 Nikogaku Crisis

THE VICTORIOUS MEGUROGAWA HIGHSCHOOL WILL FIGHT AGAINST FUTAKOTAMAGAWA ACADEMY TOMORROW JULY THE 20TH, IN THE FIFTH ROUND AT THE MEIJI JINGU STADIUM.



HOHO...

CHEEEEEESE...

POPULAR, AREN'T WE?

!?

I WANT ONE WITH WAKANA-KUN!

ME NEXT, ME NEXT!

HEY, ONE AT A TIME, LADIES!

EHH... GUESS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

NO, ONE MORE! ONE MORE, ANIYA-KUN!

HEHE...

WOMEN JUST LOVE THEM BASEBALL PLAYERS.

I SHOULD'VE PLAYED BASEBALL TOO.

IT'S A NICE POSITION TO BE IN.

WHAT WAS THAT!?

NIKOGAKU IS STILL JUST NIKOGAKU.

YOU SEEM TO BE GETTING FULL OF YERSELVES, NOW THAT YER A LITTLE FAMOUS.

HAHAHA, COWARDS.

LOSERS.

SORRY, LADIES.

C'MON, LET'S GO.

EHHHH!?

YEAH.

GYAHAHA!

PFFFT!

WITH THOSE MONKEY FACES OF YOURS.

YOU'RE JUST JEALOUS 'CUZ GIRLS AIN'T INTO YOU... YOU'RE THE LOSERS HERE!

WHAT THE FUCK ARE YOU LAUGHIN' AAAAAAT!?

WE'LL FUCKIN' KILL Y'ALL!!

MOVE IT, YOU MORON!

.....

KYAAAA!!

GUWAH!

HIYAMA-SAN!

DON'T LAY A HAND ON ANY OF THEM!

RUN, HIYAMA!

M- MOTHER F-F...

I... I KNOW...

HEY, WAIT!

KYAAAAAAA!

!

THIS ISN'T A FIGHT!

IT'S NOT A FIGHT!

IT'S A FIGHT!

WHAT THE!? A FIGHT!?

CHATTER CHATTER

D... DOESN'T HE LOOK FAMILIAR...

ANIYA!

ANIYA!

AH, YOU'RE RIGHT!

FROM NIKO-GAKU!?

ANIYA!?

SHI...

SO YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO FIGHT BACK?

SERVES YOU RIGHT, PLAYBOY!

NOW DIE.

AND 1

HUAAAAAH!

TOSHIBA

ENEO

明治神宮野球場

"TO TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY ACTS, WHICH WENT AGAINST THE RULES IN PLACE, I'VE DECIDED TO INFORM YOU OF MY DECISION TO REMOVE MYSELF FROM ALL OF THE REMAINING GAMES IN THIS YEAR'S TOURNAMENT."

.....

EEEH...

PLEASE OFFER THEM TEA.

THEY'RE GUESTS.

Y... YES, SIR.

IT'S REALLY THE LEAST YOU COULD DO!!

HEY. THERE'S NO NEED TO SERVE THEM ANY TEA!

SO, AS GENERAL ADMINIS-TRATOR, I ACCEPT YOUR REQUEST.

HOWEVER, I NEED YOU TO NAME A NEW REPLACEMENT AS THE COACH FOR TOMORROW'S GAME.

NORMALLY, YOUR CASE WOULD NEED TO BE EXAMINED BY A COMMITEE.. BUT BECAUSE THE MATCH HAPPENS TO BE TOMORROW, WE'RE SHORT ON TIME...

AH, I WILL ASSUME THE COACH DUTIES AS THE FACULTY SUPERVISOR.

TH.... THANK YOU VERY MUCH...

THE PAPERS TALK ABOUT YOUR VICTORY IN SUCH A SENSATIONAL WAY...

BECAUSE THE FACT IS, YOU WON.

BUT AREN'T YOU ASHAMED TO HAVE ALMOST DISHONORED YOUR TEAM?

LISTEN UP. WE'LL LET IT SLIDE ONLY BECAUSE YOU DEFEATED THE BIG FAVORITE SASAZAKI.

.....

BUT DO KNOW THAT YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS TOURNAMENT COULD HAVE BEEN VOIDED BECAUSE OF YOU...

.....

UNDERSTAND THIS:

I REALLY HATE THOSE THAT BREAK THE RULES.

THEY'RE BEING BROUGHT HERE!

THAT BASEBALL TEAM... THEY STARTED A BIG FIGHT IN THE STANDS. WE ARRESTED THEM!

WE'VE GOT TROUBLE!!

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

CHAIR-MAN!

IS THE CHAIRMAN HERE!?

THE KIDS THEY WERE FIGHTING AGAINST WERE ABLE TO FLEE FROM THE GUARDS... WHILE RUNNING, THEY SCREAMED THAT THEY DIDN'T START IT!!

THAT TEAM?

THERE'RE PEOPLE WHO LIKE FIGHTING EVERYWHERE...

WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHIN'!

LET GO ALREADY!

LET GO!

OWW!! THAT HURTS!

WHY DID YOU BRING US HERE...!?

!

!?

Y... YOU GUYS...!

S... SENSEI!

WHY ARE YOU HERE!?

NO WAY...

WE DIDN'T LIFT A FINGER!
NO!! WE DIDN'T!

N...

WHAT'S WRONG?
IT'S THE TRU...
UGGH...

...
LISTEN TO ME!
WE SIMPLY CAME TO WATCH MEGU-ROGAWA'S GAME!!

WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!

T... THAT'S RIGHT!

THEY'RE THE ONES THAT PICKED ON US!

THEY'RE THE ONES WHO BEAT US UP! WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!!

WE NEVER HIT BACK!! WE DIDN'T THROW ONE PUNCH!!

BELIEVE US!

SENSEI!!

BELIEVE US!!

ASK THE AUDI-ENCE!

I KNOW, THE AUDI-ENCE!

THEY SAW EVERY-THING!

YES, SIR.

THE OTHER KIDS SAID THAT THEY WERE INNOCENT TOO, RIGHT?

THEY'RE LYING!

SENSEI...

ARE TELLING THE TRUTH.

MY STUDENTS

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE TOO NAIVE!?

.....

PLU,S EVEN IF THE YAKUZA COACH SAYS THAT, IT CARRIES NO MERIT WHATSOEVER!

IF THEY SAY SO, THEN I BELIEVE THEM.

PFFFT!

YEAH, THAT WAS JUSTIFIED SELF-DEFENSE!

I'M TELLING YOU, WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

OWW!

ドズ

ALL WE DID WAS RUN AWAY!

BUT BY ACCIDENT, MY FIST ENDED UP LANDING ON SOME DUDE'S FACE...

HIS FACE!?

AH... NO, NO, YOU KNOW...

JUSTI-FIED...?

Vol.212 One Hard Day

HOHO...

THIS IS WITHOUT A DOUBT A CASE OF PREMEDITATED VIOLENCE.

DID YOU HEAR THAT, CHAIRMAN?

HEY, HOLD ON A MINUTE!!

WE SHOULD HOLD AN EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE EXAM COMMITTEE AT ONCE.

!?

EXCUSE ME.

I'M SORRY FOR EVERY-THING THOSE TROUBLESOME FELLAS HAVE CAUSED.

ARE YOU ALRIGHT? I HOPE NOTHING BROKE.

I THINK THE ONES RESPONSIBLE WERE MEGUROGAWA GRADUATES.

M... MEGURO-GAWA'S C...

COACH SAWAMURA!

PLEASE BE FAIR AND LENIENT WITH THEM.

THESE CHILDREN ARE WITHOUT A DOUBT THE VICTIMS.

THIS HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU, SAWAMURA-SAN.

FROM MEGURO-GAWA...

W... WHAT!?

HO HO...

W... WHAT?

IMPORTANT THINGS?

DURING OUR PRACTICE GAME.

IT DOES... COACH KAWATO AND HIS STUDENTS TAUGHT US SOME VERY IMPORTANT THINGS

.....

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, PASSION AND DREAMS!

YOUTHFUL ENTHUSIASM, RESOLUTION, TEAMWORK,

YOU WEREN'T EVEN THERE.

HEHE...

IT'S THANKS TO THEM THAT MY STUDENTS CHANGED!

THE GAME ONLY LASTED TWO HOURS, BUT BECAUSE OF THAT, MY SELFISH STUDENTS UNDERSTOOD THANKS TO NIKOGAKU, THAT ALL OF THOSE THINGS ARE VERY IMPORTANT!

YOU KNOW WHY THE SPECTATORS WERE SO ATTRACTED TO NIKOGAKU DURING THE SASAZAKI GAME, RIGHT?

THE PUBLIC SAW THEIR PASSIONS AND DREAMS GUSHING OUT!!

WHICH IS THE ESSENCE OF THE VALUES FOR HIGHSCHOOL BASEBALL, IS IT NOT?

BECAUSE ABOVE THEIR POOR TECHNIQUE AND THEIR DESPERATE COURAGE...

COACH SAWA-MURA...

NIKOGAKU WILL DEFINITELY BECOME AN EXCELLENT TEAM THAT THE NATION CAN BE PROUD OF IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

NOTHING WOULD MAKE ME HAPPIER THAN TO CONTINUE WATCHING THE PROGRESSION OF THIS TEAM...

THERE, THAT'S ALL I WANTED TO SAY.

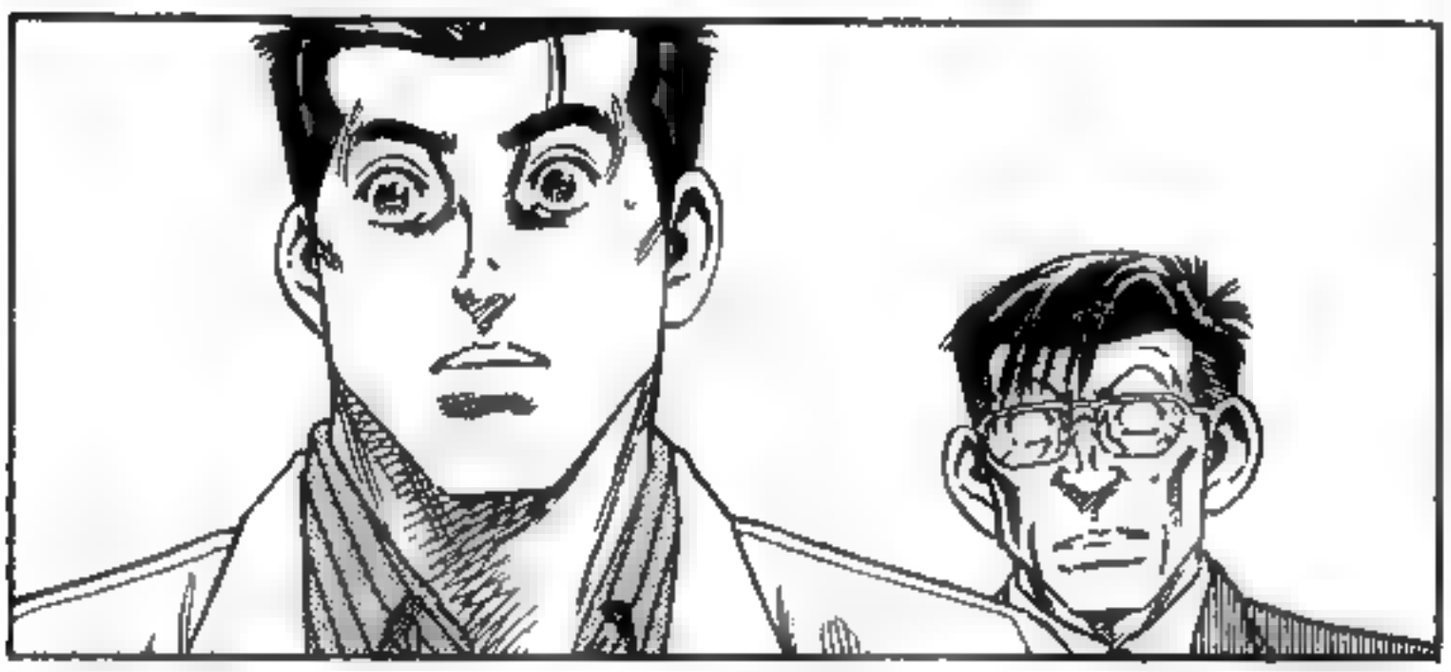
SO I ASK OF YOU TO BE LENIENT WITH THEM...

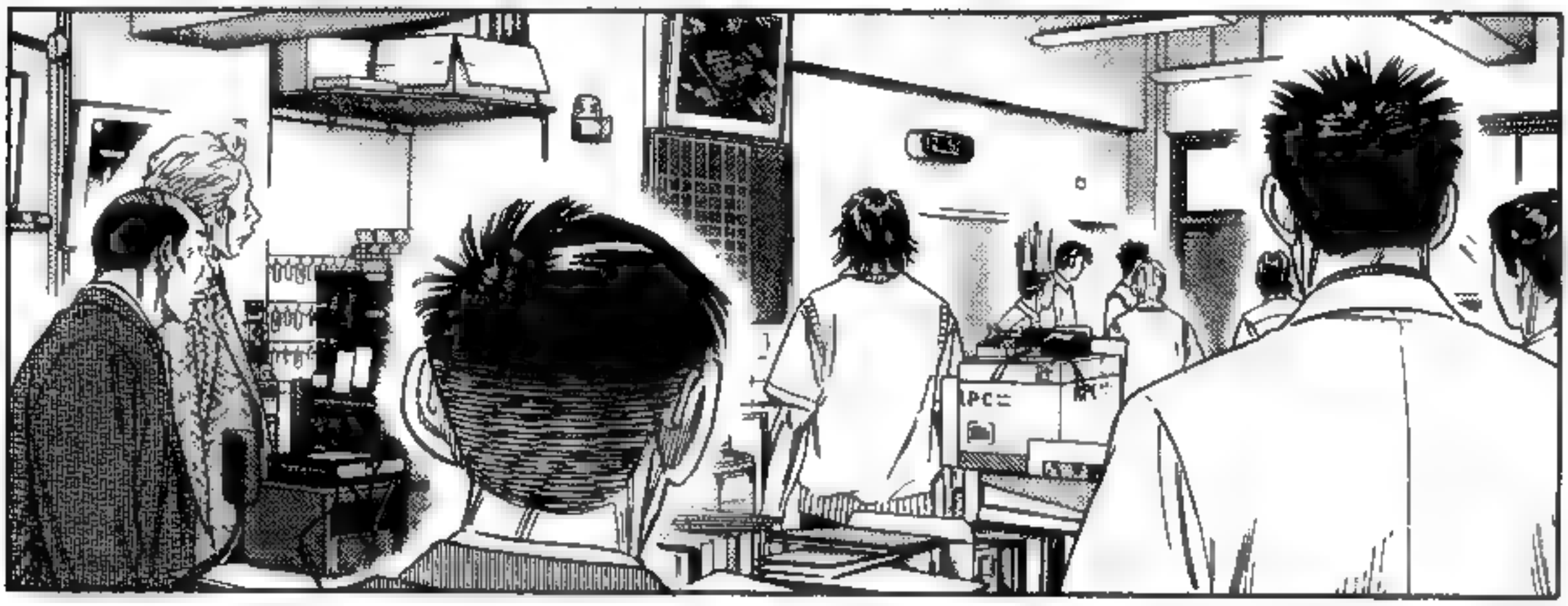
ハァ…

ガチャ

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME... GOODBYE.

CHAIR-
MAN...
.....




PC

YOU MAY
GO NOW.
WHAT?

第84回 全国高校野

ANIYA-KUN! HOW DID IT GO?

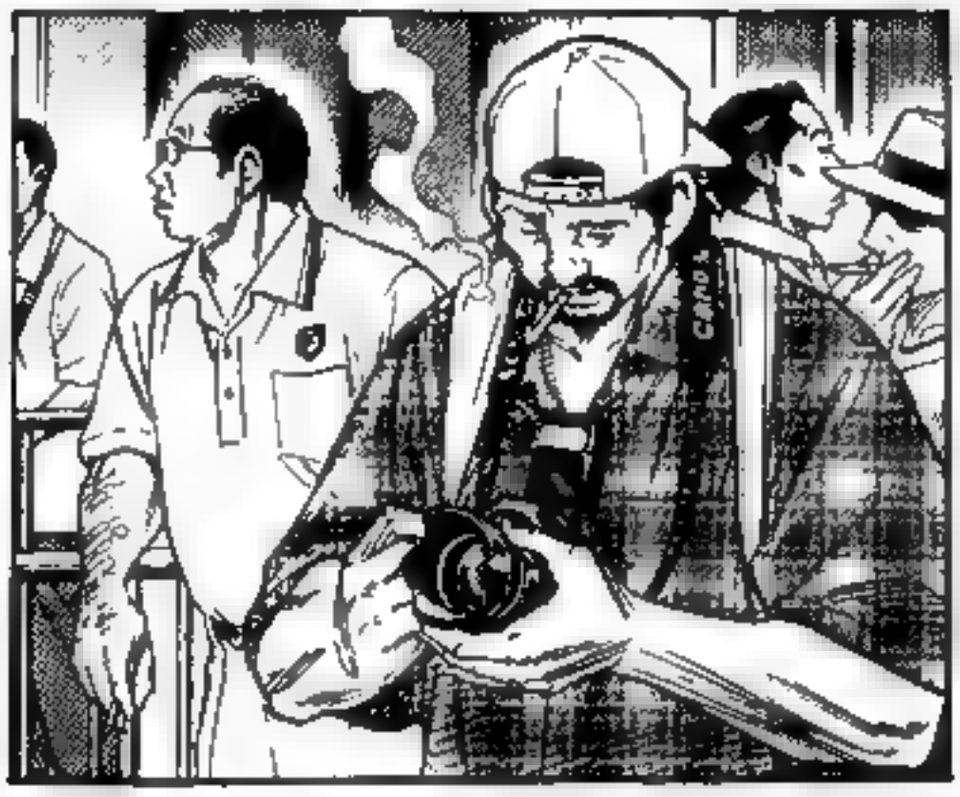
DID YOU REALLY FIGHT!?

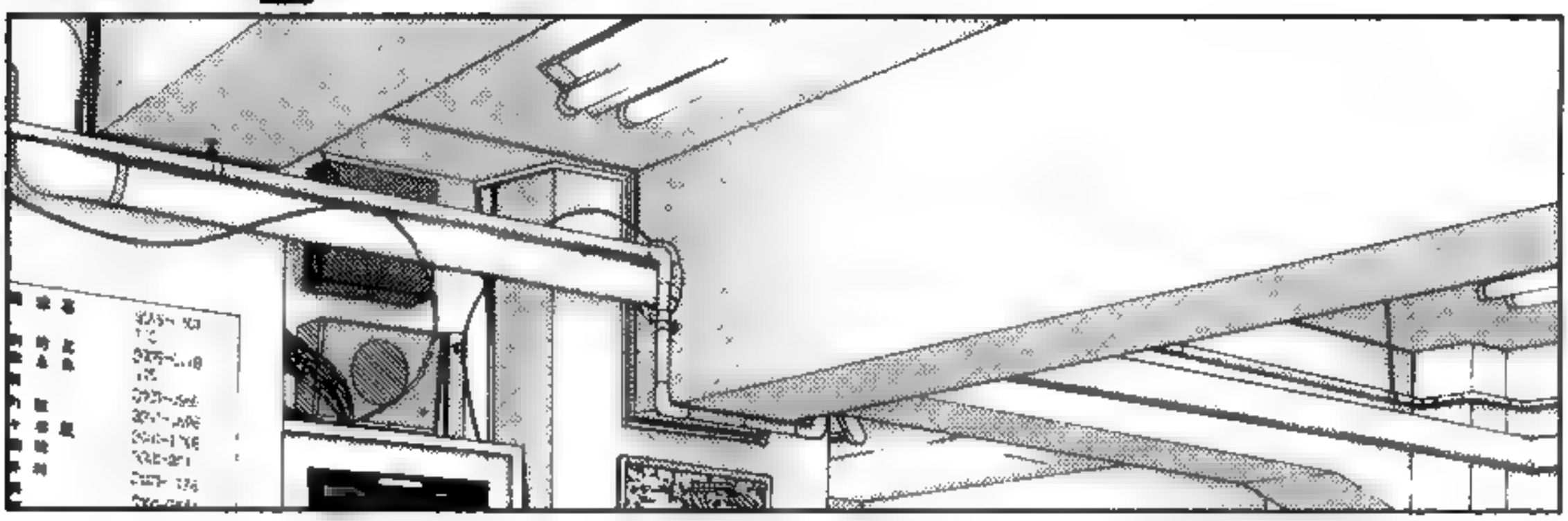
WHAT'S THE VERDICT?

キャ

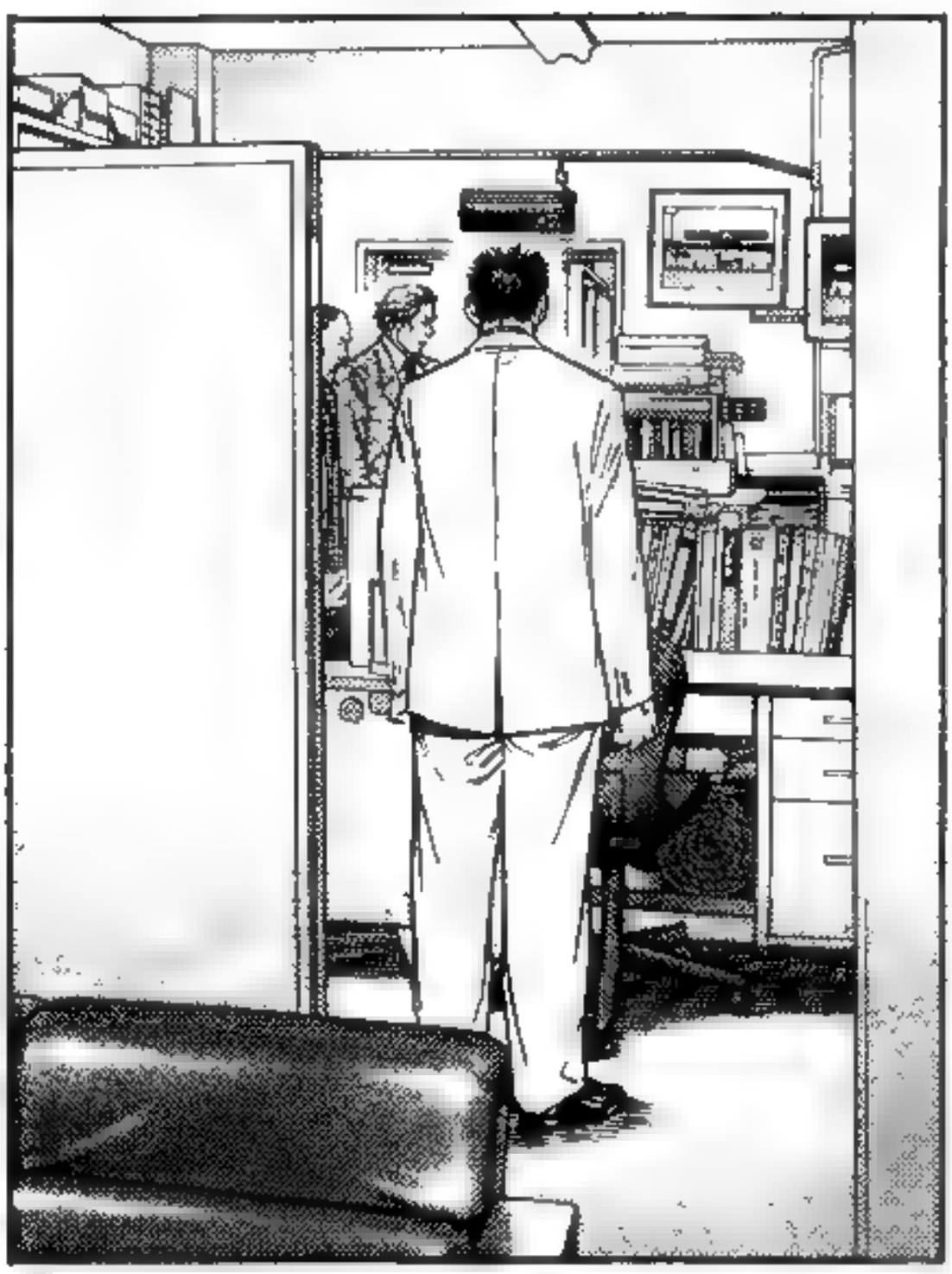
AH, IT'S NIKO-GAKU!

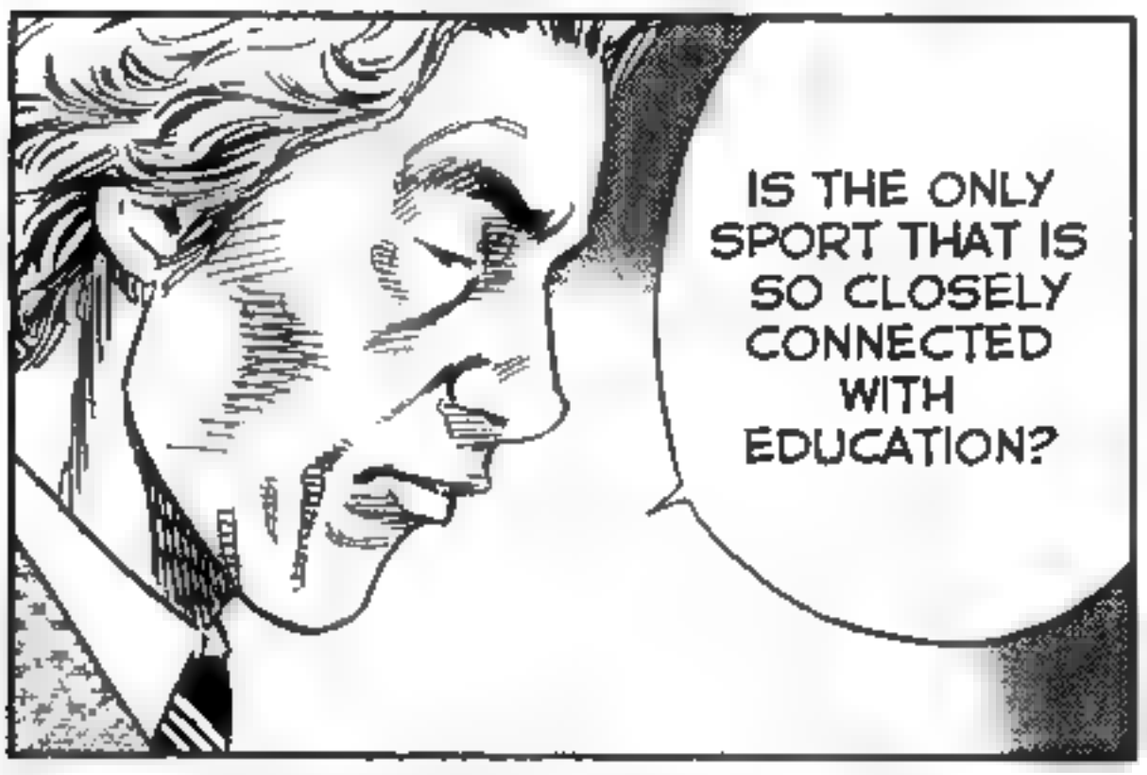
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT!!

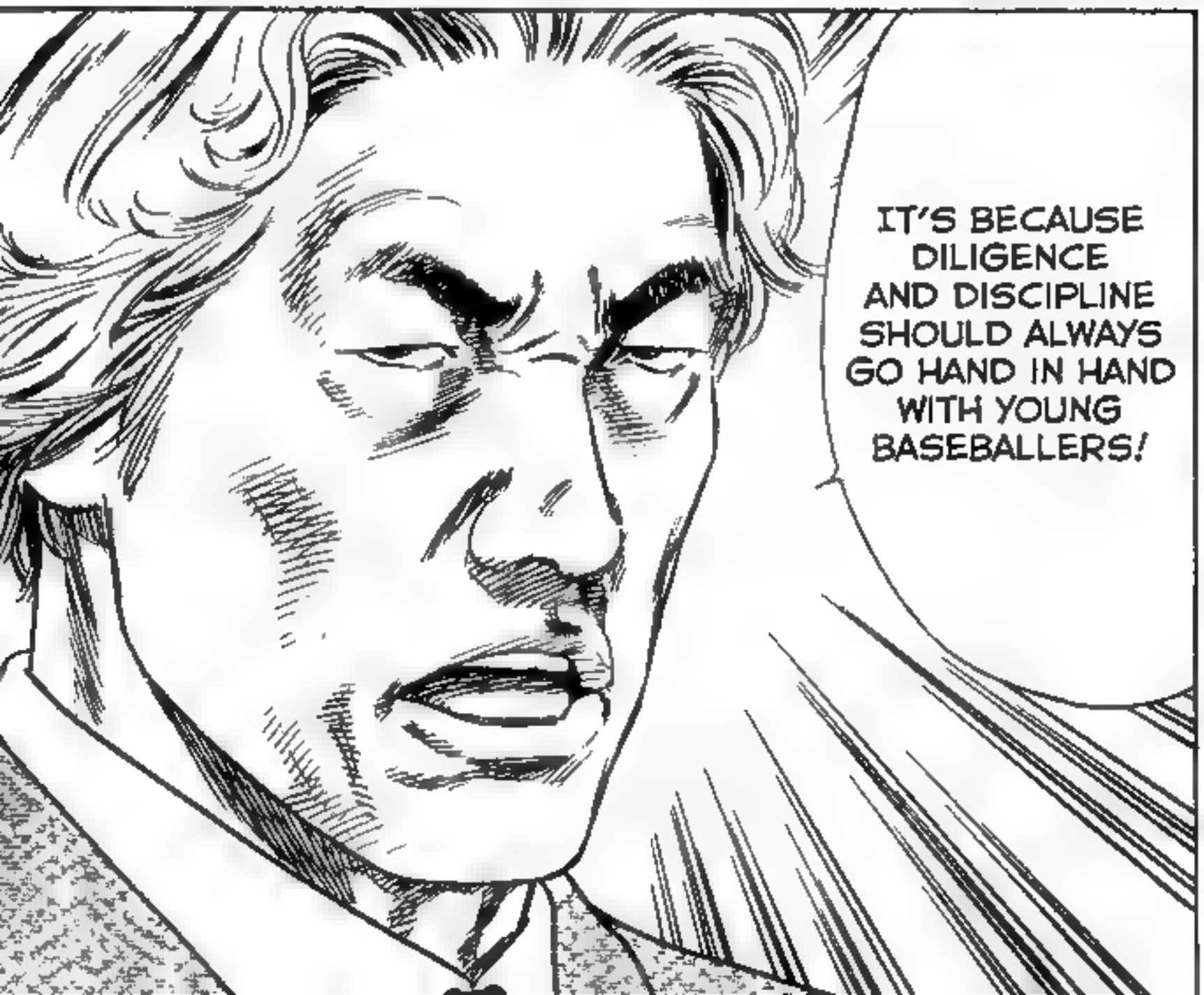




DO YOU KNOW WHY BASEBALL




IS THE ONLY SPORT THAT IS SO CLOSELY CONNECTED WITH EDUCATION?


IT'S BECAUSE DILIGENCE AND DISCIPLINE SHOULD ALWAYS GO HAND IN HAND WITH YOUNG BASEBALLERS!

.....

I DO NOT THINK THAT DREAMS AND PASSION ARE WHAT MAKES A TEAM STRONG!

IF YOU WANT MY OPINION, A SCHOOL WITH SLOPPY EDUCATION CAN NEVER CREATE A STRONG TEAM!

A TEAM THAT IS TRULY STRONG WILL ALWAYS BE BLESSED WITH GOOD EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND AND EXCEL IN THE SPIRIT OF FOLLOWING THE RULES!

IN SHORT, I'LL RECOGNIZE YOUR TEAM, AS LONG AS YOU KEEP WINNING...

THEN NOTHING ELSE MATTERS.

BUT WITH THAT SAID, IF YOU'RE ABLE TO BLUEPRINT THE CREATION OF A STRONG TEAM THAT ALL OF JAPAN COULD BE PROUD OF,

CHAIRMAN ...

THEN THERE WILL BE NO CHOICE BUT TO JUDGE THE LOT OF YOU AS A BUNCH OF FAKES

AND YOU WILL BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE COMITTEE IMMEDIATELY.

BUT IF YOU LOSE...

A ONE YEAR BAN FROM PARTICIPATING IN THE TOURNAMENT!

AND I BET THAT THE DECISION TAKEN WILL BE...

THAT'S EXACTLY RIGHT!

O... ONE YEAR!?

YOU'RE SAYING THAT... IT WON'T EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT SUMMER'S TOURNAMENT!?

.....

HOOOOH, YOU'RE PRETTY UNLUCKY...

SO, IN THE END YOU CAN'T LOSE, NO MATTER WHAT.

IT MEANS THAT IT'LL BE ALL OVER FOR ALL THE SECOND YEARS, LIKE ANIYA AND COMPANY, THE SECOND THEY LOSE THEIR FIRST GAME...

IF THERE'S NO TOURNAMENT FOR YOU NEXT SUMMER...

IT'S OVER...

IF WE LOSE...

I COMMITED A BIG MISTAKE...

I'M THE ONE WHO'S RESPONSIBLE...

THE FIELD IS SHARED WITH OTHER CLUBS!?

BUT IT'S TINY...

WHAAAT!!? IT'S HERE!?

NOT *MOUSE* SPORTS!!

IT'S *MONTHLY* SPORTS!

TCH, THIS MOUSE SPORTS GUY IS GETTING COCKY.

AND THEY'RE A PRIVATE SCHOOL, TOO.

I EXPECTED SOME BIG, PRIVATE PRACTICE GROUNDS...

THE REPORTERS JUST KEEP ON COMING.

LISTEN UP! THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE HERE FOR THE FIRST TIME, PLEASE GO TO THE OFFICE.

YEAH!!!

WHERE IS EVERYBODY?

ONLY 20 LEEEFT!

EH!? REALLY!?

DID YOU KNOW THAT TOMORROW'S GAME WILL BE AIRED ON TV?

IS EVERY-BODY WATCH-IIING!?

WE DON'T HAVE PRACTICE TODAY, ANYWAY.

AH, THEY WENT TO WATCH THE MEGUROGAWA GAME.

WELL... IT SEEMS NIKOGAKU STARTED A FIGHT IN THE STANDS...

WHAT'S WRONG?

EH!? WHAT!? FOR REAL?

A FIGHT?

SO IT'S MEGURO-GAWA AFTER ALL...

HEY, THE GAME IS OVER!

MEGURO-GAWA WON.

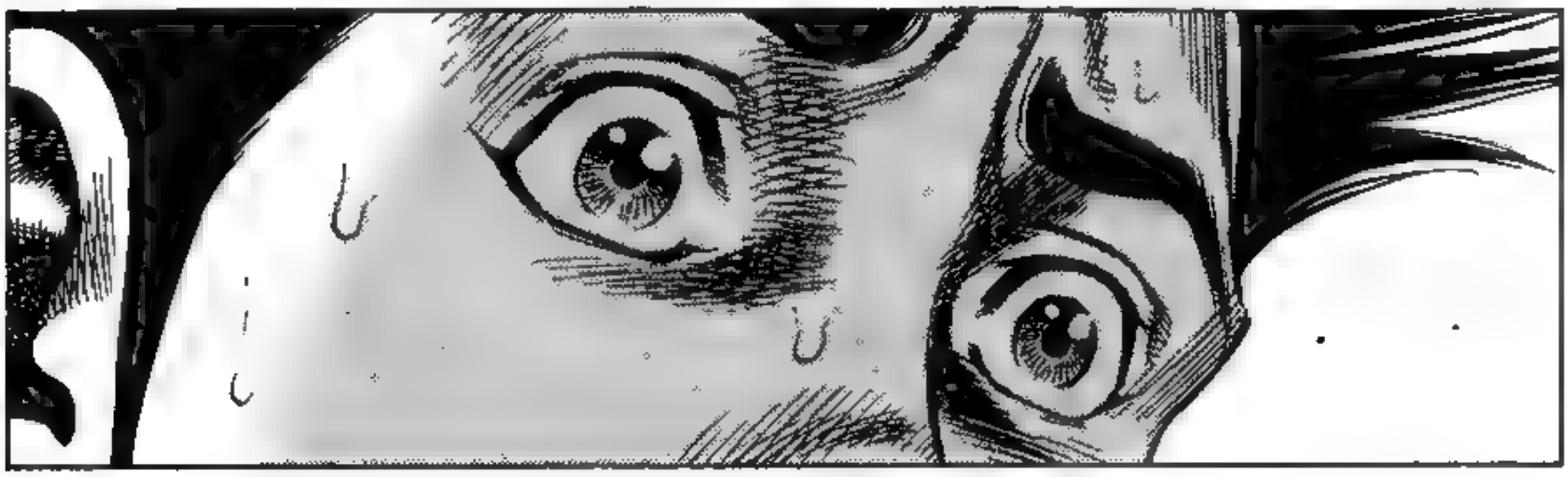
!?

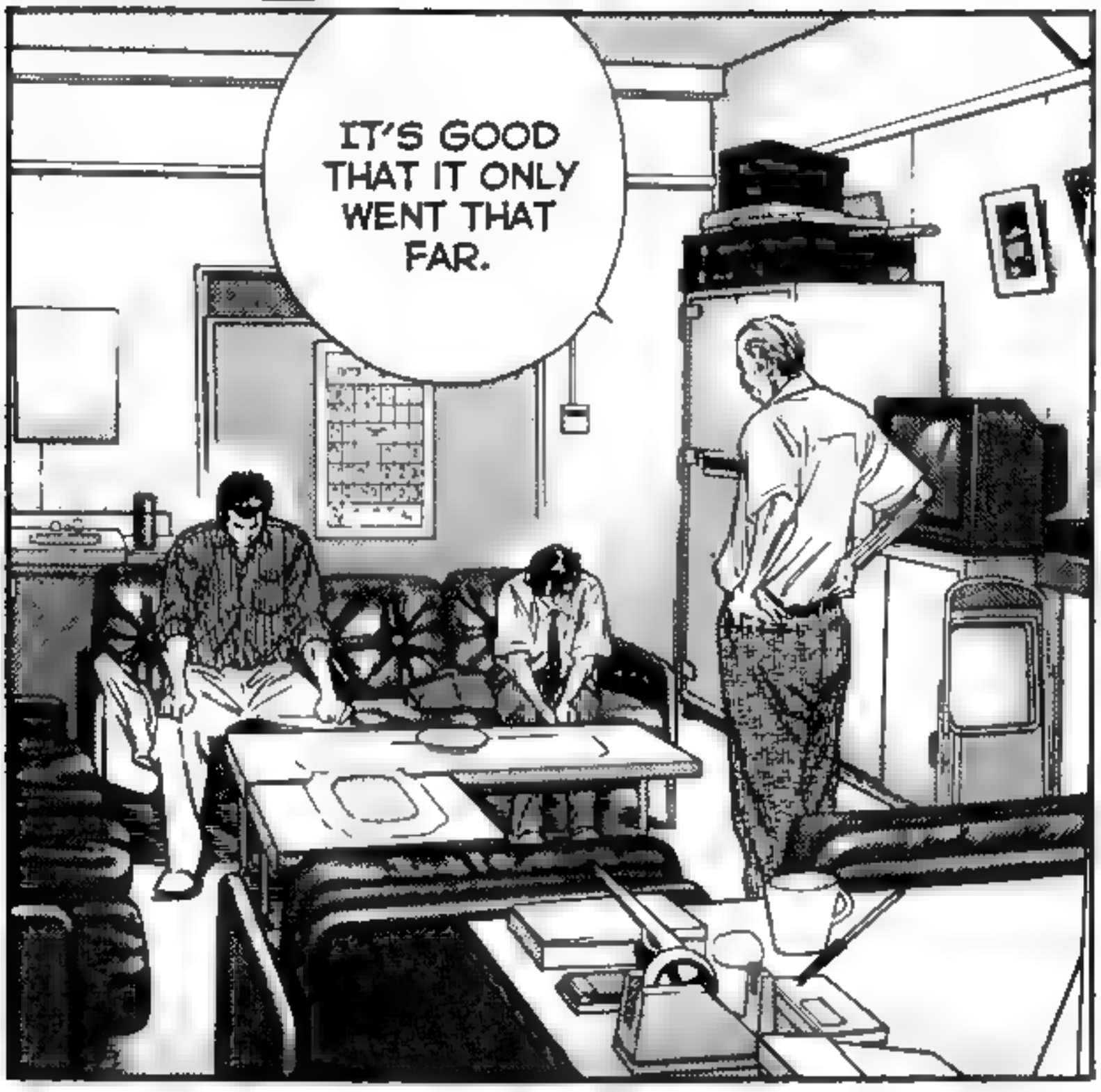
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING!?
FOR THE LAST TIME, WE DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

WHAT DID YOU DO...

I JUST WANTED TO SHAKE THEM OFF...
SHAKING THEM OFF IS FINE! BUT DON'T GO SHOOTING YER MOUTH OFF!

I'M REAAA AAALLY SORRY!!
IT'S ALL THIS MORON'S FAULT.




IT'S GOOD THAT IT ONLY WENT THAT FAR.

校長室
WE'VE GOT NO CHOICE.

NO WAY...

THEN TURN! STOMP THE GROUND TWICE!

RAISE YOUR LEG!

NOW RIGHT, THEN LEFT!

THREE, FOUR! LET'S GO, GIRLS!

YES! ONE, TWO!

ONE, TWO,

THREE, FOUR,

FIVE, SIX,

SEVEN, EIGHT!

NOW, ONE, TWO!

THE SEXIER IT IS, THE MORE PUMPED ANIYA-KUN WILL GET! SO RAISE YOUR LEGS HIGHER!

YEAAAAH, NIKOGAKU, YEAAAAH!

ONE, TWO!

SHUT UP, ALREADY.

NIKO-GAKU, YEAAAH, YEAAAH!

GO, WAKANA, GO!

GO, WAKANA, GO!

FUCK...

Vol.213 Imbalance

STUPID, PUNKASS ROOKIE!

EH!? IS THAT FOR REAL!?

AND THAT HAMANAKA WON'T STOP SAYING, "I STEPPED ON THE WALKOFF HOME BASE".

IT'S GOTTEN ALL NOISY ALL OF A SUDDEN.

NOBODY BELIEVED THAT THAT BASEBALL TEAM COULD MAKE IT THIS FAR.

UWAAAH, YOU STARTLED ME!

FUUUCK HIM!!!

SHINJO-KUUUUUN!

THAT'S RIGHT, I'M THE REAL ACE HERE.

AND MY RAINBOW FASTBALLS WILL MAKE THEIR DEBUT.

BY THE WAY, IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

OH YEAH?

NO, PROBABLY IN OUR NEXT GAME AGAINST MEGUROGAWA, OUR SECRET WILL BE UNVEILED,

WHAT ARE YOU LAUGHING FOR?

HAA HAA HAA!

AHAAA HAHAHA HA!

SHINJO'S POWER.

MIKOSHIBA'S GREAT DEFENSE.

FOR ANIYA AND AKABOSHI, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS, BUT THERE'S ALSO...

SEKIKAWA AND HIS SPEED.

THEY'RE NOT JUST ALL GUTS, THEY'RE ACTUALLY AN EXCELLENT BALANCED TEAM.

'CUZ IT'S QUALITY OVER QUANTITY!

TO THINK THEY CAME THIS FAR WITH ONLY TWELVE CLUB MEMBERS... I'M IMPRESSED.

ON TOP OF THE WORK THEY DID, THEY WERE ALL BORN WITH THE ABILITY!

THE WHOLE COUNTRY WILL BE PROUD OF THIS TEAM IN THE NOT-SO-DISTANT FUTURE!

THAT ROOKIE-ISH BAD BOY IMAGE OF THEIRS HAS ITS CHARMS.

MAN, IT ISN'T ALL SUNSHINE FOR NIKOGAKU AFTER ALL...

NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT, WHAT HAPPENED WITH COACH KAWATO'S PUNISHMENT?

HMM... WHICH MEANS THEY DON'T WANT THE NEWS TO BE MADE PUBLIC?

YOU'RE RIGHT, SOMETHING HAPPENED... BUT THE BASEBALL ASSOCIATION IS REFUSING TO COMMENT.

AND THEN, THEY LET THE PLAYERS GO.

BUT STILL, I'M WONDERING WHAT THIS WHOLE FIGHT THING IS...

.....

KAWATO'S PUNISHMENT HAS BEEN DECIDED.

YOU WENT AND BOUGHT HORSE RACING PAPERS AGAIN, DIDN'T YOU?

SHADDAP.

AHH, YOSHI-SAN.

WHERE DID YOU GO!?

.....!!

.....

FOR WHAT, THEY ALREADY DECIDED WHAT THEY WANTED TO DO WITH US!

UMMM... TO BE MORE PRECISE, WE WOULD BE BROUGHT IN FRONT OF THE COMMITTEE...

WE WON'T BE ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE TOURNAMENT FOR A YEAR?

I... IF WE LOSE...

.....

IN OTHER WORDS, IT'LL ALL BE OVER FOR US...

FOR ONE YEAR... THAT MEANS WE WON'T BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEXT SUMMER'S TOURNAMENT...

A TEENSY BIT... LIKE THIS...

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH, I KINDA FOUGHT... A LITTLE...

BECAUSE THERE WAS ONLY HAMANAKA-KUN THAT FOUGHT... AND EVERYONE IN THE PUBLIC SAW THAT IT WAS IN LEGITIMATE SELF-DEFENSE...

BUT IT COULD GO BY WITHOUT MANY PROBLEMS, DON'T YOU THINK...?

ACTUALLY...

SO THERE'S NO REASON FOR THEM TO SUSP—

I GRAZED ONE OF THEM WITH A SMALL KICK...

.....

UH... ME TOO... WHEN I FELL... BUT IT WAS JUST A TINY BIT...

!

.....

ME TOO, ACTUAL-LY...

UH...

UHHH... BUT THEY WERE THE ONES WHO ATTACKED US...

WE WERE JUST TRYING TO RUN AWAY, THAT'S ALL...

Y... YOU'RE KIDDING.

.....

IT WAS STILL ALL IN SELF-DEFENCE...

B... BUT...

SO I WASN'T THE ONLY ONE THEN...

WH... WHAT THE...

!

YOU BASTAA AARD!

W... WE HAD NO CHOICE, MAN!

THAT KICK YOU TOOK TO YOUR RIBS...

WHAT'S WRONG !?

...

A... ANIYA!

ANIYA!

SHI...

UGGH...

IT'S NOTHING! UGGH...

S... SHUT UP ALREADY

D... DON'T TELL ME...

....

....

....

SEKI-KAWA!

SEKI-KAWA-KUN!

NO...

SHIT!

.....

OWW...

I TRIPPED EARLIER TODAY AND I HIT THAT VERY SAME SPOT AGAINST THE GROUND...

.....

WH... WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO NOW...

WITH ALL OF THESE INJURIES...?

GOOOO, MIKO-SHIBA, GOOOO!

GOOOO, MIKO-SHIBA, GOOOO!

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN TO US!?

GO, NIKO-GAKU, GOOO!

GO, NIKO-GAKU, GOOO!

GO, NIKO-GAKU, GOOO!

LISTEN, THAT'S NOT ALL THE BAD NEWS...

UMMM...

FOR THE REST OF THE TOURNAMENT...

KAWATO-SENSEI HAS BEEN BARRED...

GOOO, NIKOGAKU, GO GOOO!

GOOO, NIKOGAKU, GO GOOO!

UMMMM... THIS IS AN ANNOUNCEMENT FOR EVERYBODY IN THE SCHOOL.

PLEASE STOP THE CHEERING PRACTICE FOR THE BASEBALL CLUB THIS INSTANT.

UWAAH, THAT STARTLED ME.

WHAT NOW?

HMM?

CHATTER CHATTER

ALL VISIBLE CHEERING FOR THE BASEBALL CLUB ARE FORBIDDEN UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

.....

WHAT THE!?

YOU'RE KIDDING!

CHATTER CHATTER

EH!? FOR REAL!?

YOU'RE FREE TO ATTEND THE GAME, HOWEVER, IT IS FORBIDDEN TO BRING ANY SONOROUS OR VISUAL INSTRUMENTS USED TO ENCOURAGE OUR TEAM.

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE BASEBALL CLUB'S BEHAVIOR, WE'VE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO CEASE ALL CHEERING...

YOU ARE TO STOP THE CHEERING PRACTICE AT ONCE.

I REPEAT,

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE VARIOUS PROBLEMS CONCERNING THE BASEBALL CLUB'S BEHAVIOR, WE'VE CONCLUDED THAT IT WOULD BE BEST TO CEASE ALL CHEERING...

YOU'RE FREE TO ATTEND THE GAME, HOWEVER, IT IS FORBIDDEN TO BRING ANY SONOROUS OR VISUAL INSTRUMENTS USED TO ENCOURAGE OUR TEAM.

ANY FLASHY FORM OF CHEERING FOR THE BASEBALL CLUB IS PROHIBITED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

THANK YOU FOR UNDER-STANDING.

THOSE IDIOTS!

HMPH!

WHAT THE HELL IS HE TALKIN' ABOUT, BEHAVIOR PROBLEMS?

GYAHAHAHA! SERVES 'EM RIGHT.

WHO KNOWS!

I DON'T HAVE THE WORDS TO EXPRESS HOW SORRY I AM.

I'M SO ASHAMED OF MYSELF.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

I WON'T BE ABLE TO SUPPORT YOU IN SUCH AN IMPORTANT TOURNAMENT...

IT'S TRUE.

YES...

FROM A ... ABOUT THIS IF WE ... ONE ... OUT THING

IS THAT REAL?

SAY THAT AGAAAAIN!!

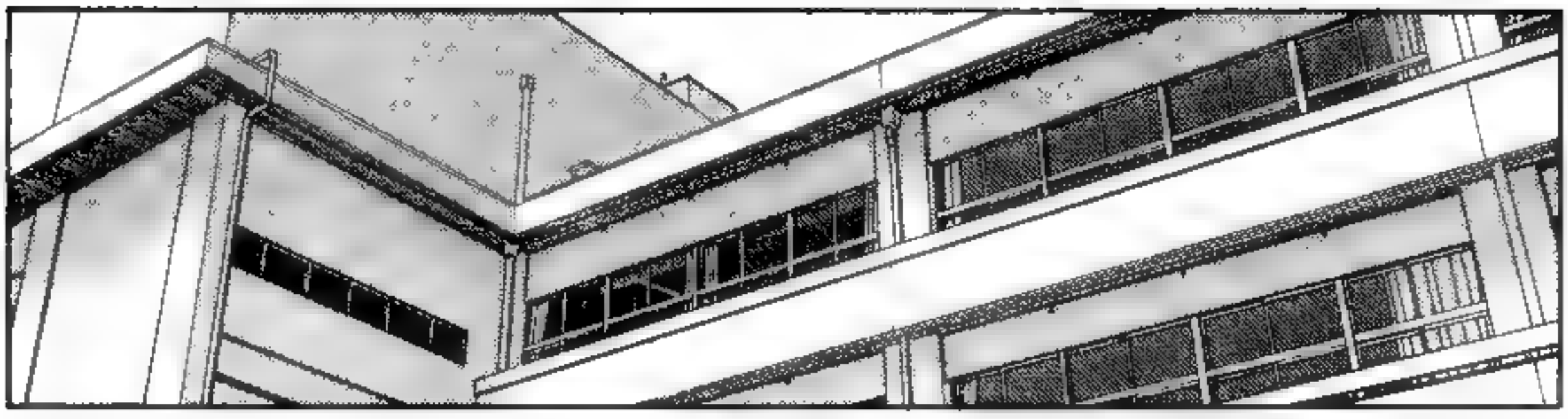
WHAT THE FUUUCK!?

THIS IS THE ONLY WAY THE FEDERATION WOULD SHOW ANY LENIENCY.

AND ON TOP OF THAT, IT WAS KAWATO-KUN HIMSELF THAT MADE THIS DECISION...

IS THERE NO OTHER WAY?

THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO.



HUUUH!?
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY LOST!
AND YOU GUYS CALL YERSELVES MEN!?

KEH, YOU GUYS ARE SO PATHETIC.

GIMME A BREAK.

ALL WE NEED TO DO IS JUST KEEP WINNIN'!

SO STOP BEING SO PATHETIC ALREADY!

WHAT'S DONE IS DONE!

NOW STAND UP! YOU'RE MEN, RIGHT!?

WE DON'T CARE ABOUT SOME PITCHER BITCHIN' 'CUZ HIS TUMMY HURTS!!

I'LL BE THE PITCHER TOMOR-ROW!!

OOOOO OHHH!! ♡

THAT'S RIGHT, HIRATSUKA-KUN WILL BE PITCHING!

.....

OOOO OHHH!

HIRA-TSUKA-KUN IS RIGHT!

THAT'S RIGHT! EVERY-THING WILL BE FINE AS LONG AS WE WIN!

Vol.214

Dark horse

ARE YOU GONNA BE OKAY BY YOURSELF?

I'M NOT A KID.

BE SURE TO GET THAT X-RAYED.

AW, SHADDAP ALREADY. THERE'S NOTHING THERE.

WELL, I'M OFF THEN.

DAMMIT.

HE CAN'T RUN LIKE THAT.

THAT WON'T WORK.

THEY'RE NOT BROKEN!

WHAT THE FUCK!? YOUR RIBS COULD BE BROKEN!

I'M GONNA BANDAGE THEM AT HOME AND PITCH AT 160KM/H TOMORROW.

HE'S RIGHT. YOU GOT KICKED TWICE.

I'M FINE.

YOU SHOULD GO TO THE HOSPITAL TOO.

.....

NO MATTER HOW YOU LOOK AT IT, THE NATURAL CHOICE FOR TOMORROW IS ME!

WHAT THE HELL IS WITH YOU!?

.....

YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO WIN THEN, DO YOU!?

WHO ELSE IS THERE?

CAN YOU REALLY PITCH TOMORROW?

HUH?

LET'S THROW A FEW, ANIYA.

.....

YO...

I DONT FEEL LIKE IT RIGHT NOW.

HECK, NO!

.....

ANY PITCH WILL DO.

JUST TRY TO SWING YOUR ARM.

YOU...! SHADDAP!

AND HAND OVER THAT ACE NUMBER TO ME ALREADY!

JUST CONFESS ALREADY, YA BASTARD!!! BE HONEST AND SAY YOU DON'T WANNA THROW 'CUZ IT HURTS LIKE HELL!

SO MIND YOUR OWN GODDAMN BUSINESS!

AIN'T YOU FUCKIN' SUS-PENDED!?

IT MIGHT HAVE AN EFFECT ON YOUR BATTING TOO... WHAT IF YOUR RIBS—

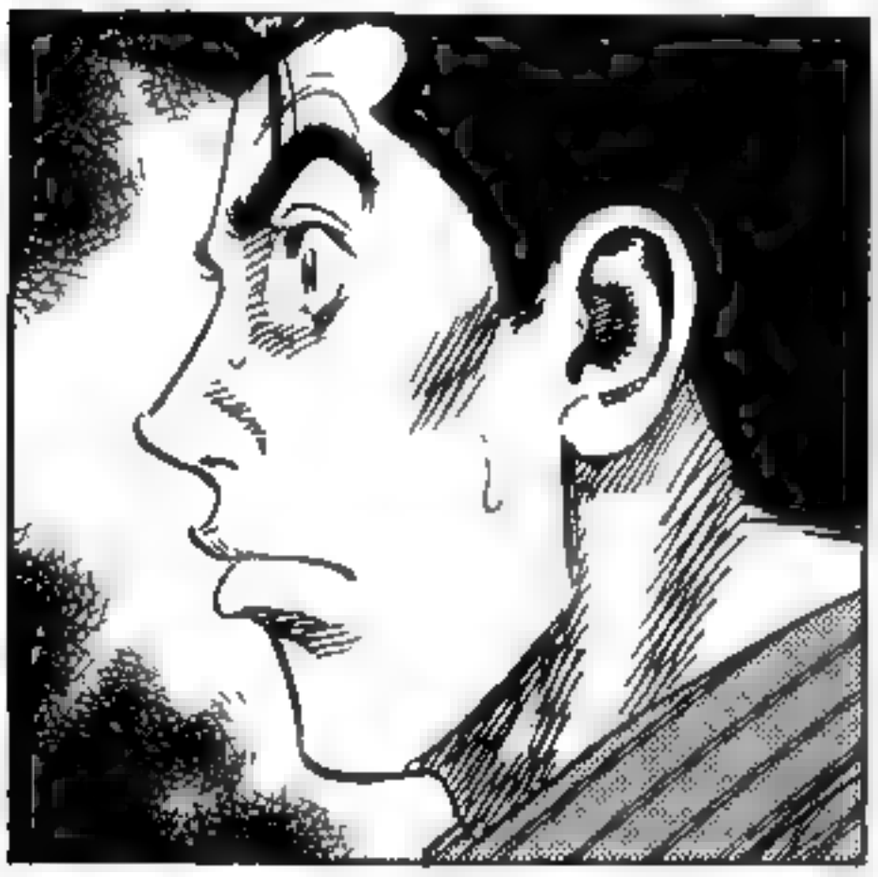
I NEED TO KNOW WHAT YOU CAN DO.

ANIYA!

ANIYA-KUN!

SHADDUP, ALREADY!!

.....
HEH... A SUSPENDED COACH... ISN'T THAT SOMETHING?
HOW LONG ARE YOU GONNA KEEP BEING RASH AND SCREWING EVERYBODY ELSE IN THE PROCESS?



HEY! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!?
HONESTLY, YOU'RE NOTHING BUT TROUBLE FOR US.
OUTTA MY WAY.

ANIYA!

ANIYA! BE SURE TO GO TO THE HOSPITAL!

GEEZ...

THAT'S RIGHT, GO HOME, YA LOSER!!

HMM...

BECAUSE HE KNOWS THAT THE DOCTOR WOULD ORDER HIM TO TAKE IT EASY FOR A WHILE.

BUT I DON'T THINK HE'LL GO TO THE HOSPITAL, EVEN IF THE PAIN IS UNBEARABLE...

HE UNDER-STANDS HIS PREDICAMENT BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE.

I THINK THAT THE THOUGHT OF EVENTUALLY LOSING NEVER EVEN CROSSED HIS MIND.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR HIM TO THINK THAT HE COULD LOSE WITHOUT EVEN PUTTING UP A FIGHT.

.....

LOSING IS UNACCEPTABLE FOR HIM.

.....
KAWATO-KUN, WE NEED TO DECIDE ON THE BATTING ORDER FOR TOMORROW'S GAME...

EH...?

I'LL COUNT ON YOU TO TAKE CARE OF IT, VICE PRINCIPAL.

THE GUY FROM MORNING SPORTS...?

EVENING.

THEY WANT US TO RETIRE AT THIS AGE, THOSE MOTHER-FUCKERS!!

THEY'LL SUSPEND US FROM THE NEXT TOURNA-MENT IF WE LOSE!?

THAT'S BULL-SHIT!!

FUCKING SHIIIIT!!

WILL THE CLUB THEN BE ABOLISHED?

AND THEN, IF IT HAPPENS LIKE THAT, WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RECRUIT NEW MEMBERS UNTIL THE NEXT SPRING. AFTER THAT... IT'LL JUST BE ME AND AKABOSHI...

UWWAAAAAA!

UWAAAH! MIKO-SHIBA-SAN!

EH?

WHAT ARE YOU DOIN'!?

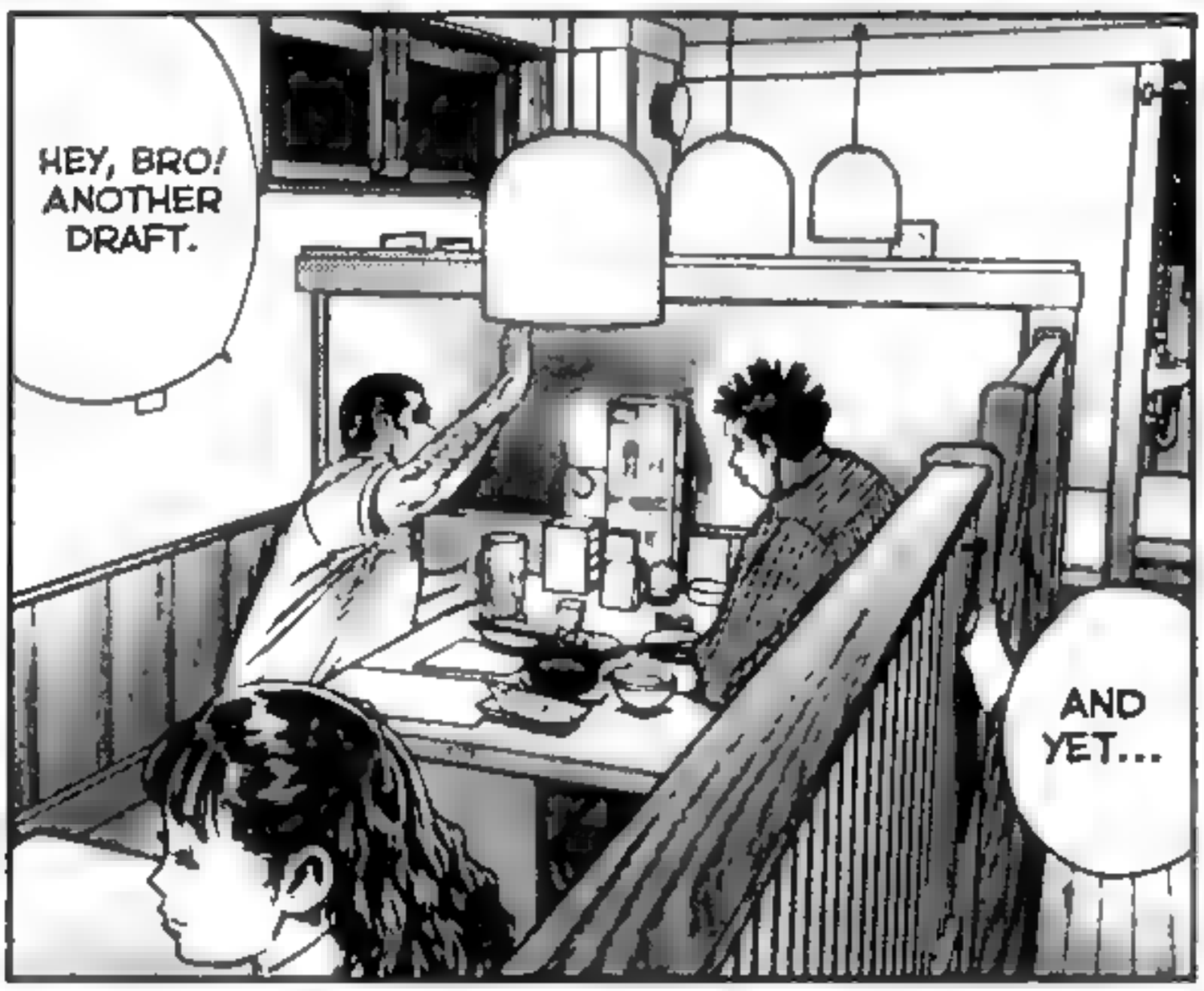
NYAAAAAAAAA!

FUCK IT ALLLL!!!

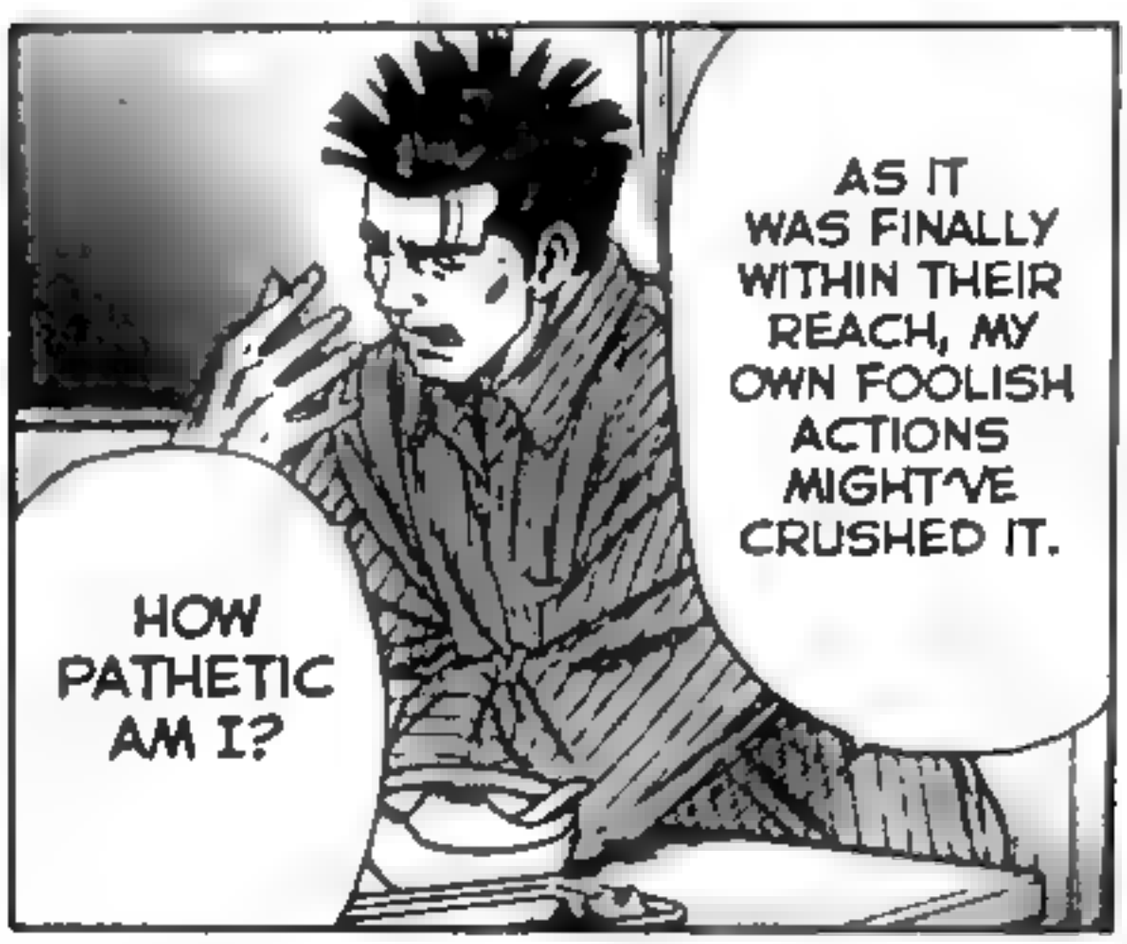
MOTHER-FUCK-ERRRS!!

UWAAAAA! WAAAAIT!

STICK YER SUS-PENSION UP YER ASSES!!
URAAAA!
HYAAAA! SAVE MEEE...!
BAN US FROM THE TOURNA-MENT!? FUUUUCK YOU!!


HEY, BRO! ANOTHER DRAFT.
AND YET...

I'VE ALWAYS TOLD THEM THAT THEY SHOULD HAVE DREAMS,


AS IT WAS FINALLY WITHIN THEIR REACH, MY OWN FOOLISH ACTIONS MIGHT'VE CRUSHED IT.
HOW PATHETIC AM I?

I'M THE ONE THAT'S DESTROYING THAT DREAM OF THEIRS...

WHY SHOULDN'T WE SPEAK UP WITH WHAT'S REALLY ON OUR MINDS FROM TIME TO TIME?

BUT WHO CARES? THAT'S PART OF YOUR CHARM.

COME TO THINK ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU HIT A COACH IN THE MIDDLE OF A GAME BEFORE?

GAHA HAHA HA!

Y-YOU KNOW ABOUT THAT?

WHEN YOU'RE DETERMINED, YOU GO ALL THE WAY.

I'D BE DISAPPOINTED IF YOU CHANGED YOUR STYLE.

YOU SHOULD CONTINUE LIKE THAT.

.....

AH! NO! I DON'T DRINK BEER...

BRO, MAKE THAT TWO DRAFTS!

!

NOW DON'T BE CHEAP, DRINKING THAT OOLONG TEA.

BUT WHAT I DID WAS A BIG REASON BEHIND THE SANCTIONS GIVEN TO THE TEAM...

BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE YOU TO KEEP FRETTING ABOUT STUFF THAT'S HAPPENED ALREADY.

SO YOU THINK THAT NIKOGAKU CAN'T WIN AS IT IS RIGHT NOW?

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT I...

IT LOOKS LIKE YOU THINK YOU'VE ALREADY LOST TOMORROW'S GAME AND IT'S ALL OVER...

NO, I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HORSERACING.

ナニワハ タンゴノ シダイ

DO YOU KNOW THIS HORSE?

THAT'S EMBAR-RASSINGLY BAD!

SQUITCH

ODDS OF IT WINNING ARE 164 TO 1.

TUMBLING DICE?

RUMOR HAS IT THAT TOMORROW'S RACE MIGHT BE ITS LAST.

EVER SINCE ITS DEBUT, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN DEAD LAST.

A SHITTY HORSE THAT COULDN'T OUTRUN A TURTLE. NOBODY EVER BETS ON IT.

?

BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE ALL RETIRED HORSES CAN GO TO EITHER FARMS OR HORSERIDING CLUBS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THEIR DAYS.

NO MATTER HOW HARD A HORSE WORKS, IF IT DOESN'T WIN, IT WON'T EARN ITS FEED. THERE'S NO USE FOR A HORSE LIKE THAT.

COMPETITION IN THE HORSE RACING WORLD IS FIERCE TOO.

.....

I'M SURE THE HORSE UNDERSTANDS AS WELL.

CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN THEIR DAMN STRENGTH... CONTINUE TO BELIEVE IN YOUR TEAM DESPITE BEING IN THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR!

YOU CAN'T STOP NOW! ESPECIALLY NOT NOW!

I BET 10,000 YEN!

AND I CHOSE TO BET ON THOSE HOPELESS, SHITTY HORSES AT THE LAST MOMENT, WAITING FOR A MIRACLE.

YOU'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED IN YOUR STUDENTS.

.....

I'M SURE THAT THE THOUGHT OF PLAYING TOMORROW IS KILLING THEM WITH EXCITEMENT!

.....

H-HUH?

ガ"

ガ"

OH!

TH...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!!

AHAHA...

WHY AREN'T WE ABLE TO THINK ABOUT WINNING?

TO GET OUT OF THIS SITUA-TION.

ALL WE NEED TO DO IS WIN...

WE'LL DEFINITELY WINNN!!

YEAH, ALL WE NEED TO DO IS WIN!!

WE'LL NEVER GIVE YOU THE SATISFACTION OF SEEING US LOSE!!

WATCH, YOU MOTHER-FUCKERS!

HOLD ON TIGHT, MEGURO-GAWAAAA!!

OR RATHER, THERE...

TO MAXIMIZE THE SCOPE OF OUR DEFENSE, I'LL PUT THEM HERE...

HMM...

BUT IN THAT CASE, THE PITCHER WILL BE...

Hirat

FOR A GOOD SEQUENCE, SOMETHING LIKE THIS...

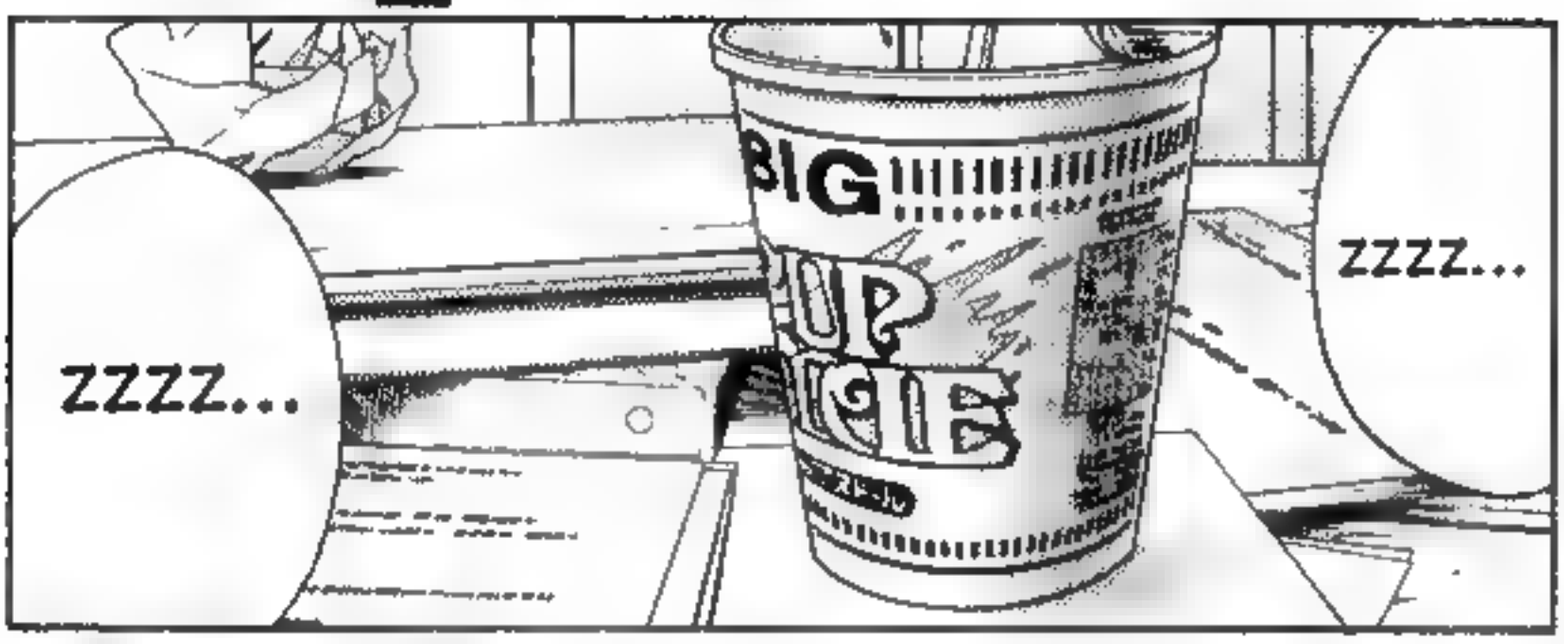
THEN THERE'S THE BATTING ORDER.

BUT IT WOULD BE BETTER TO PUT HIM HERE...

ARGH!!

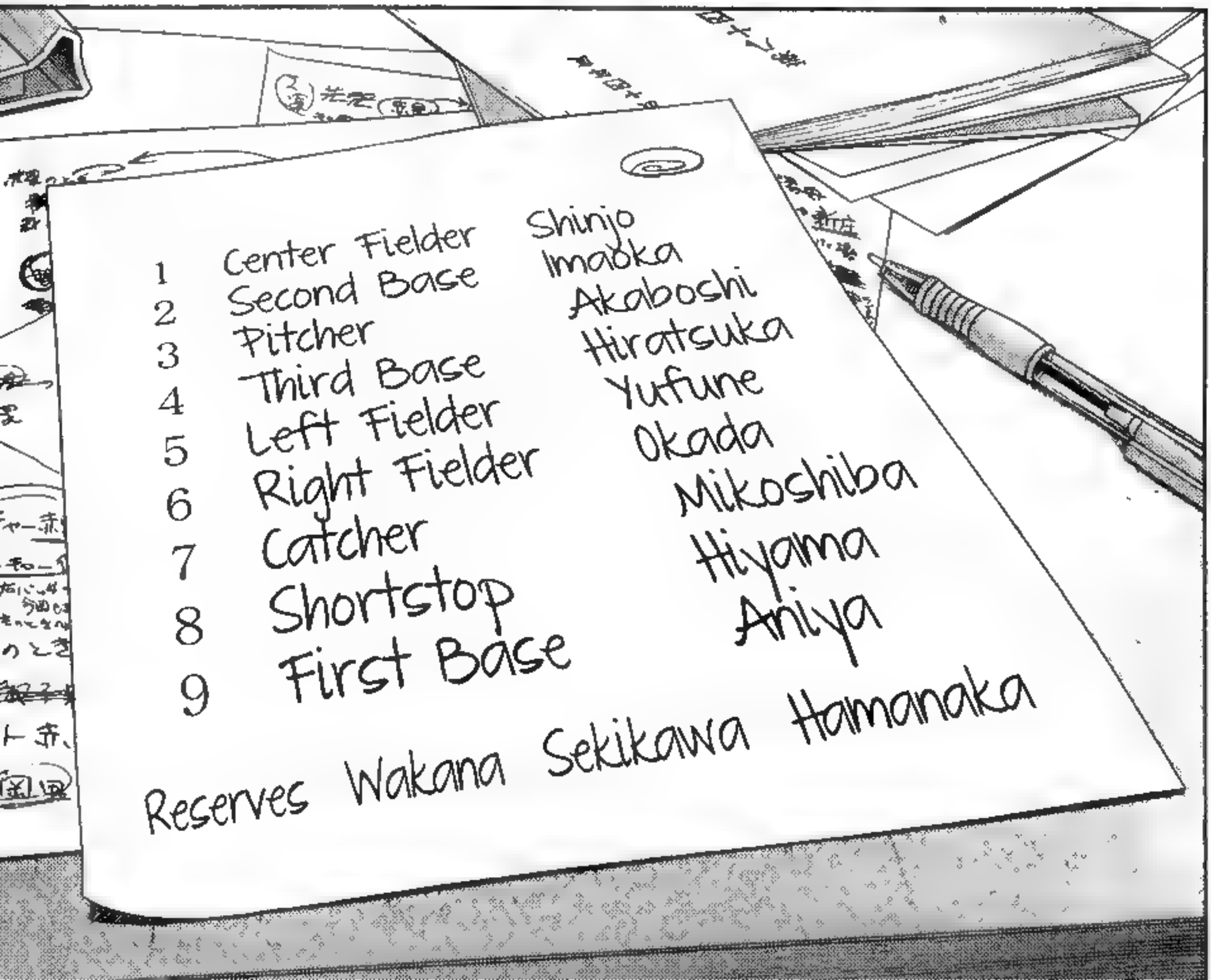
CRUMPLE CRUMPLE

HMMM...


ZZZZ...
BIG
UP
ZZZZ...

チチチ!!

ZZZZ...
ZZZZ...


1 Center Fielder Shinjo
2 Second Base Imaoka
3 Pitcher Akaboshi
4 Third Base Hiratsuka
5 Left Fielder Yufune
6 Right Fielder Okada
7 Catcher Mikoshiba
8 Shortstop Hiyama
9 First Base Aniya
Reserves Wakana Sekikawa Hamanaka

Vol.215

Like a Cat, Ignorant of Love, It Will Still Play With a Ball.

THE SCHOOL IS QUIET TODAY.

SERVES 'EM RIGHT.

HEHEH! SO NOT A SINGLE STUDENT HAS COME TO SEE THE BASEBALL CLUB OFF.

AND THERE AREN'T ANY STUDENTS DOING CLUB ACTIVITIES HERE.

IT'S THE BEGINNING OF THE SUMMER BREAK, AFTER ALL.

TO GO TO JINGU STADIUM.

FUJITA-SENSEI? SHE LEFT A WHILE AGO...

HUH? AREN'T YOU GOING, KAKEFU-KUN?

AHH, THINGS WILL BE HARSH AT JINGU STADIUM TODAY... HEHEHE!

HEHEHEH! I'VE ONLY COME BECAUSE FUJITA-SENSEI ASKED ME TO HELP HER SORT HER TEACHING MATERIALS.

THAT'S THE ORDER I'VE DECIDED FOR TODAY'S MEGUROGAWA GAME.

THERE.

SEVENTH BATTER, CATCHER, MIKOSHIBA.

EIGHT BATTER, SHORTSTOP, HIYAMA.

NINTH BATTER, FIRST BASE, ANIYA.

WHA...!?

BWA HAHA HAHA!

HEH... HEHE HEHEH...

IT'S FINALLY HEEEE EERE!!

HAHAHAHA HAHAHA! IT'S HEEEERE!

DID YOU EVEN PUT ANY THOUGHT INTO IT!?

NOW WAIT A MINUTE! WHAT THE HELL IS WITH THIS ORDER!?

AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, HIRATSUKA IS THE FOURTH BATTER!? SERIOUSLY!?

1 Center Fielder Shingo
2 Second Base Imaoka
3 Pitcher Akaboshi
4 Third Base Hiratsuka
5 Left Fielder Yufune
6 Right Fielder Okada
7 Catcher Mizoguchi
Shortstop Hiyama
First Base Ashiya

Reserves Wakana Ishikawa Yamanaka

H-HANG ON, SHOW ME THAT!

GO ME, GOOO!

YEAH!! IT'S FINALLY HERE!!

NO WAY, SENSEI!! ARE YOU SERIOUS!?

THIS IS WHAT THE WORLD HAS BEEN WAITING FOR!

WE'LL GO WITH THIS.

NO,

PLUS I GOT A PAINKILLER FROM THE HOSPITAL THIS MORNING!

L-LET ME PLAY, SENSEI! I'VE GOT NO BROKEN BONES!

NO WAY! NO FUCKING WAY!

I DON'T GET IT!

HOW DARE YOU BASTARDS GO AGAINST THE COACH'S ORDERS!?

BUT THAT'S THE REASON WHY I WANT TO PLAY...

LISTEN, YOUR LEGS ARE IMPORTANT WEAPONS THAT OUR TEAM NEEDS.

EVEN IF YOU WITHSTAND THE PAIN, PLAYING A LONG GAME STILL ISN'T GOOD FOR YOUR LEG.

SO JUST WAIT AND GIVE US 120% OF YOUR EXPLOSIVE POWER AT THAT TIME.

IN THIS GAME, THE TIME WHEN WE'LL BE NEEDING THOSE LEGS WILL DEFINITELY COME,

WHAT?

THAT'S RIGHT! YOUR TIME WILL COME!

SO THERE'LL CERTAINLY BE A MOMENT WHEN WE'LL NEED YOU.

YOU TOO, WAKANA. EVEN IF YOUR HAND IS INJURED, YOU CAN STILL RUN.

.....

HIT EVERYTHING WITH FULL POWER.

BECAUSE YUFUNE IS A POWER HITTER, I WANT HIM TO HAVE TO ROLE BRINGING RUNNERS HOME.

MIKOSHIBA WILL CONCENTRATE ON BEING THE CATCHER AND GETTING HIS SIGNALS OUT TO THE PITCHER INSTEAD OF JUST HITTING...

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION HIS DEFENSIVE SKILL AND HIS ABILITY TO GET ON BASE, I MADE SHINJO CENTER FIELDER AND FIRST BATTER.

HAHAHA! YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT! LISTEN TO THE MAN!

NOBODY CAN SAY THAT YOUR HITS WERE JUST FLUKES!

YOUR STRENGTH AND TALENT ARE FOR REAL, EVEN IF THEY ONLY SHOW UP AT KEY TIMES!

ALL YOU'LL NEED TO DO IS LOAD SOME RUNNERS BEFORE ME...

AND SINCE I'M THE FOURTH BATTER, YOU HAVE NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT!

OHHH!?

SHUT UP ALREADY, HIRATSUKA!

THIS ISN'T THE TIME TO BE JOKING AROUND.

SENSEI ...

THIS ORDER WILL BRING ABOUT THE MAXIMUM PERFORMANCE FROM OUR CURRENT NIKOGAKU!

LISTEN... I GAVE IT A LOT OF THOUGHT AND THIS IS THE BEST ORDER I COULD COME UP WITH.

I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYONE BUT YOU AS NIKOGAKU'S FOURTH BATTER.

Batting line-up
Center Fielder Shinjo
2 Second Base Imaoka
3 Pitcher Akabochi
4 Third Base Hiratsuka
5 First Base Yufune
6 Shortstop Hiyama
7 Right Fielder Okada
8 Catcher Mikoshiba
9 Left Fielder Hamanaka

THE ONLY DIFFERENCE IS...

TO THE ORDER THAT THE VICE PRINCIPAL AND I CAME UP WITH YESTERDAY...

IT'S SIMILAR ...

.....

Catcher
9. Left Fielder
Mikoshi
Hamanaka

WE DIDN'T PUT REI-CHAN IN THE STARTING LINE-UP...

BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.

THE FACT THAT WE HAVE INJURED PLAYERS IS REAL,

NO MATTER WHAT ANYBODY SAYS OR DOES, THE TWELVE PEOPLE HERE ARE FROM NIKOGAKU!

SO I DON'T KNOW IF I'M REALLY IN THE RIGHT POSITION TO SAY THIS,

BUT I'LL SAY IT ANYWAY...

OVER THAT, MY FOOLISH ACTIONS JUST MADE THINGS WORSE.

I REALLY HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME...

NO MATTER WHAT SITUATION WE'RE IN, WE HAVE TO DO OUR BEST.

DON'T EVEN THINK ABOUT LOSING.

BELIEVE IN THE EFFORTS WHICH HAVE BROUGHT YOU THIS FAR.

I HAVE FIRSTHAND EXPERIENCE OF MANY OF YOUR MIRACULOUS COMEBACKS!

IT'LL BE FINE.

LISTEN UP!

YOUR CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELVES AND YOUR COURAGE WILL GUIDE YOU FROM THE DEPTHS OF DESPAIR!!

I HAVE NO DOUBT ABOUT IT!

YOU WILL WIN!

DO YOUR BEST.

I'M SORRY... THAT'S ALL I CAN SAY.

EVERYONE,

DO YOUR BEST.

ON A BENCH FOR THE KOSHIEN!

YEAH, I'M REALLY SORRY.

IS IT TRUE THAT YOU WON'T BE ON THE BENCH FOR THE REST OF THE TOURNAMENT, SENSEI?

BUT I CAN'T WAIT UNTIL NEXT MONTH, SO THAT I CAN SIT NEXT TO ALL OF YOU...

HEHE!

オオ!!!

NOW FOLLOW ME!

YEAAAAH! LET'S GOOO!! STRAIGHT TO THE KOSHIEN, GUYS!!

FIRST STEP: WE CRUUUUSH MEGURO-GAWAAAA!!

YEAH, WE'RE GOIN' TO THE KOSHIEN!!

Y-YES, OF COURSE!

VICE PRINCIPAL.

I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU,

HE'S ALWAYS LIKE THAT.

THAT KAWATO-KUN ACTUALLY BELIEVED THAT BUNCH WHEN THEY SAID THAT THEY DIDN'T FIGHT BACK YESTERDAY?

DID YOU KNOW...

OR IS HE REALLY THAT STUPID...?

.....

I THINK THAT IT'S JUST A WAY OF ACTING LIKE A NICE, DOWN TO EARTH TEACHER.

HE ALWAYS KNOWS HOW TO ACT LIKE THE NICE, UNDER-STANDING TEACHER...

HOW DARE HE SAY HE BELIEVES IN THOSE BAD STUDENTS!

HMM?

YOU THINK THAT HE PROBABLY WOULD'VE HIT YOU FOR SPOUTING THAT NONSENSE.

WHAT WOULD KAWATO-KUN DO IF HE HEARD YOU?

UH... KU...

HEY, LET GO...

YOU'RE THE ONE THAT HASN'T CHANGED, SHIMANO-SAN.

WH-WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?

HE'D BELIEVE IN YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF HIS HEART.

NO, THAT'S WRONG. KAWATO-KUN WOULD'VE TRIED TO FIND YOUR QUALITIES AND TO BELIEVE IN YOU, AS MEAN AND CYNICAL AS YOU MAY BE...

.....

THAT'S JUST THE WAY HE IS.

AND I WON'T FORGIVE ANYONE THAT MAKES FUN OF THEM.

I ALSO BELIEVE THAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE INTO A BETTER PERSON AFTER HAVING THE CHANCE TO KNOW HIM AND HIS BASEBALL CLUB.

.....

UWAAH! WAIT!

H... HEY, STOP!

HELP! MAYUMI-SENSEI!

DID YOU GO TO THE HOSPITAL?

EVERYBODY'S GETTING ON THE BUS... I'M GONNA BE LATE.

HUH?

WHAT? YOU HAVE THINGS TO TELL ME NOW?

IT ISN'T SERIOUS AT ALL...

NOTHING WOULD'VE CHANGED EVEN IF I HAD GONE.

YOU DIDN'T GO, DID YOU?

HUH!?

YOU KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE THAT YOU CAN'T PITCH, DON'T YOU?

FUCK... *ME*, THE NINTH BATTER AND FIRST BASEMAN?

THAT BASTARD KAWATO'S MAKING A FOOL OUTTA ME!

'CUZ THEY'RE UNRELIABLE AND NOT GOOD ENOUGH.

BUT EVEN THEN, WHY DO YOU THINK THAT HE INSERTED YOU AS A STARTER FOR THE GAME AND NOT HAMANAKA-KUN OR SEKIKAWA-KUN!?

OWW!

ドチュッ

IT'S BECAUSE YOUR PRESENCE ALONE MAKES EVERYONE STRONGER!!

IT'S BECAUSE HE THOUGHT THAT YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO HELP THE TEAM OUT AND DO SOME-THING, EVEN IF YOU'RE HURT!!

YOU'RE WRONG, YOU IDIOT!

.....

YOU'RE REALLY AN IDIOT. WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS UNITED IN ALL OF THIS...

DO YOU THINK YOU CAN DO IT ON YOUR OWN!?

WHY WON'T YOU BELIEVE IN ANYBODY WHEN EVERYBODY BELIEVES IN YOU!?

HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU BEEN THROUGH THIS!?

IN THE END, YOU DON'T HAVE EITHER THE CONFIDENCE NOR THE COURAGE THAT WILL ALLOW YOU TO MOVE FORWARD IN THIS DIFFICULT SITUATION, KEI-CHAN...

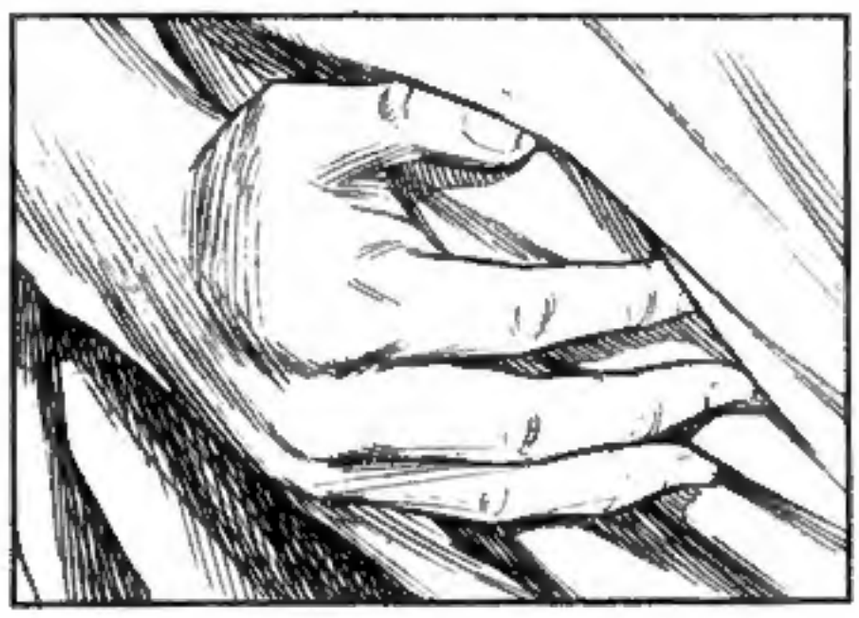
I HATE YOU...

YOU'RE A COWARD!

I *HATE* YOU!

NINTH
BATTER,
FIRST
BASEMAN...

NINTH
BATTER,
FIRST
BASEMAN...



I'M BETTER THAN THAT!

BRING IT ON, THEN!!

KIRIN

ENEOS

22 Dark Horse (End)

■ジャンプ・コミックス

ROOKIES

22ギリギリの馬

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